



Free Rice to Ration Card Holders

Why in News?

Recently, the **Chhattisgarh government has announced free rice through [fair price shops](#) to 67.92 lakh eligible ration card holders **eligible under the [Antyodaya Anna Yojana](#) from January 2024.****

Antyodaya Anna Yojana is the **sponsored scheme of the Government to provide highly subsidized food to millions of the poorest families.**

Key Points

- This **scheme will be implemented for the next five years** from January 2024 to December 2028, under the Chhattisgarh **[Food and Nutrition Security Act, 2013](#)**.
 - Free rice will be **distributed to beneficiaries from priority**, differently abled and extremely poor people's categories.
- As per the food department **there were over 14.92 lakh ration card holders in Antyodaya category:**
 - 52.46 lakh were from priority category,
 - 37,708 from single-destitute category and
 - 15,351 from disabled category.
- **National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA):** It ensures access to affordable and good-quality food by subsidizing **food grains to those below the poverty line.**
- **Fair price shops (FPS):** It is a government-run or government-regulated retail outlet or store in India.
 - It is to **distribute essential commodities** like food grains, edible oils, sugar, and other basic necessities to the public at subsidized or fair prices.

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