

# Smart cards linked to Aadhaar to make ration shops cashless

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**Chennai:** Ration shops distributing items like sugar, dal and rice among other things may go cashless soon. The new digitised avatar of household ration cards called the 'smart cards' which are being distributed to families looks to digitise transactions through a number of FPS (Fair Price Shops) or ration shops in the state.

The family smart card which was recently launched by CM Edappadi K Palaniswamy is in the process of being linked to Aadhaar cards, listing all family members and entitlement of supplies.

By going cashless, people from economically weaker families would be able to pay even the nominal cost for their supplies through their Aadhaar numbers which are linked to their smart cards, explained Madhumathi, commissioner, civil supplies and consumer protection department.

Jan Dhan bank acco-

unts which are also linked to Aadhaar can be one way to link the payments to the Aadhaar-enabled smart cards, she said adding the modalities are currently being worked on by the department which is in talks with Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) authority.

She was speaking at a seminar on 'Communication challenges in implementation of Innovative PDS Smart Card system' which touched on gaps in the PDS system starting from procurement, storage and distribution, which are looked to be plugged by technological upgrades.

In view of this, all manual registers have been scrapped and written bills are being done away with to give way for SMS-linked billing system and a live online register will track the movement of the goods distributed. She said the system would be such that the public would soon be able to access any ration shop for supplies, not just the one their card is linked to.