

Fake ration card fraud unearthed, 2 arrested

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NEW DELHI: Two persons, including a food supply officer (FSO), were arrested by the anti-corruption branch of the Delhi government for allegedly routing rations meant for poor people to the black market, with the help of fake ration cards. Those arrested were identified as FSO Laxmi Raj Singh (45) and Narender Kumar Pathak (50) while an

inspector with the food supply office (FSO), Ashok Kapani, is absconding. Laxmi Raj, who is reported to be paralytic, was granted bail on medical grounds.

The anti-corruption branch conducted a raid after they received complaints last month, alleging that fake ration cards have been issued by food and supply officials at their Shastri Park office. The ration shop (fair price shop - FPS) was being run by Narender Kumar Pathak and he was procuring rations on fake ration cards, issued on bogus names. The investigations revealed that several ration cards were issued against the same addresses.

Sleuths of the corruption unit conducted another raid at the FSO establishment at Shastri Park last week and seized documents pertaining to the issue of rations to Kumar's shop. "From the documents it was revealed that in a place where very few families could reside, a large number of ration cards were in fact in operation. The rations issued to Pathak were shown to be sold to people who never existed and details in the sales register were being sent to the FSO and inspector at their Shastri Park office. The sales register contained forged signatures of receivers of the rationed items," said Dr N Dilip Kumar, additional commissioner of police, anti-corruption branch.

This diversion of rations and kerosene was causing huge losses to the government and people for whom they were meant. Cops said that a nexus existed between the staff at the FSO and the ration shop owner, as revealed during investigations.

The department arrested two on June 17 and registered a case of corruption and cheating against them.

Investigations further revealed that the ration shop received 180 quintals of wheat, 10 quintals of rice, 20 quintals of sugar every month, out of which more than 60% of stock was diverted to the black market, where it was sold at higher prices.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/Fake-ration-card-fraud-unearthed-2-arrested/articleshow/3143428.cms>