

E-Pos machines for ration shops by March

Pilferage of ration items to be strictly checked, says CM

STAFF REPORTER

KARUNAGAPPALLY

By March, all ration shops will be installed with the electronic point of sale (E-Pos) machines, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has said.

"After computerising the shops, owners could implement the new package and function profitably. As part of efforts to upgrade the efficiency of the public distribution system, pilferage of ration items will be strictly checked and prevented," he said after the State-level inauguration of E-Pos machines here on Saturday.

Shortage of staff

The Chief Minister added that more officers would be appointed to tackle the shortage of staff in implementing the Food Safety and Standards Act.

"Among the total 1.55-core ration consumers in Kerala, over 1.25 lakh cardholders are getting rice at ₹2 a kg. At the same time, all those who are entitled to benefit from the scheme are not drawing ration that leads to the slashing of the Central share."

He said that those who



Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan watching the functioning of the E-Pos machine for rations shops at the State-level inauguration at Karunagapally on Saturday. ■ C. SURESH KUMAR

didn't draw ration should inform the government so that it can be diverted to people who need it.

Central share

"This also helps in retaining the Central share," he said. Rajeev, a resident of Karuna-

gapally, drew the first ration share using the machine from the Chief Minister.

Food and Civil Supplies Minister P. Thilothaman presided over the function.

Forest Minister K. Raju was the chief guest at the function.