

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.27
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3RD FEBRUARY, 2023

FOODGRAINS UNDER NFSA AND PMGKAY

27. SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether by extending benefits of free foodgrain distribution under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) to National Food Security Act (NFSA), Government is actually reducing the food subsidy to the poorest by Rs 1.09 lakh crore from Rs 2.9 lakh crore in 2021-22;
- (b) if not, the economics under the two schemes in the current financial year and the next financial year; and
- (c) whether by abolishing the earlier subsidised sale of foodgrains under the PDS, a huge burden is placed on the working classes for buying their additional requirements from the open market?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY, CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC
DISTRIBUTION AND TEXTILES
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. *27 FOR ANSWER ON 03.02.2023 IN THE RAJYA SABHA REG. FOODGRAINS UNDER NFSA AND PMGKAY

(a) to (c): During the current year as on 31.01.2023, an amount of Rs. 1,83,465.50 crore has already been released towards food subsidy against the allocation of Rs. 2,86,978.5 crore for the year 2022-23. The food subsidy released during the year 2021-22 was Rs.2,88,718.54 crore.

Further, In the wake of COVID-19 outbreak in the country in March 2020, the Department pursuant to the announcement of the pro-poor 'Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP)' by the Government of India, had started the distribution of 'additional' and 'free-of-cost' foodgrains (Rice/Wheat) to around 80 crore National Food Security Act (NFSA) beneficiaries in the country under the "Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)" to ameliorate the food security hardships faced by the poor and needy due to unprecedented outbreak of the pandemic, lockdowns and thus the economic disruptions caused across the country. Under PMGKAY, about 1,118 LMT foodgrains have been allocated with an earmarked total financial outlay of approximately Rs. 3.91 lakh crore upto 31.12.2022 from Phase-I to Phase-VII of the scheme.

For the last few years, Government of India has been providing sufficient funds to meet the food subsidy requirement of Food Corporation of India and States, which have opted decentralized procurement.

Keeping in view welfare of the Priority Household (PHH) and Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) beneficiaries and to relieve them from the burden to pay the Central Issue Price of the foodgrains as well as in order to maintain uniformity throughout the States, a new integrated scheme, namely, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana has been launched to provide free foodgrains to these beneficiaries as per their entitlements under NFSA, for a period of one year from 1st January, 2023.
