

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1998
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17TH MARCH, 2023

ADDITION OF FOOD ITEMS IN PDS SCHEME

1998 SHRI P. WILSON:

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

- (a) why the Ministry has not explored giving other food grains and pulses apart from wheat, rice, sugar and kerosene provided under PDS scheme to all States equally under the Public Distribution System (PDS) scheme; and
- (b) the number of BPL card holders who are there in States/UTs and are being benefited under PDS scheme, the details thereof?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a)& (b): The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is now governed as per provisions of the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA). Under the Act, the term "foodgrains" is defined as rice, wheat or coarse grains or any combination thereof conforming to such quality norms as may be determined, by order, by the Central Government from time to time. No proposal to include more commodities under the NFSA is under consideration of the Government.

Identification of beneficiaries under the NFSA is under two categories- households covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) to the extent specified by the Central Government and the remaining households as priority households to be identified by the State Governments/ Union Territories (UT) Administrations as per criteria evolved by them, within the coverage determined for the State/UT. There is no BPL category under the Act. Against the intended coverage of 81.35 crore, about 80.11 crore beneficiaries are presently covered under the Act.
