

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2780
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24TH MARCH, 2023

BENEFICIARIES UNDER NFSA

2780 SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the free foodgrain scheme for 810 million beneficiaries under National Food Security Act (NFSA) was already guaranteed under the NFSA;
- (b) whether Government has taken any steps to address the extra expenditure to be borne by the families for the cost of extra 25kg to be purchased from the local market, which was earlier availed from ration shops for only ₹ 75 under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY); and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) to (c): The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) provides for coverage of upto 75% of rural population and upto 50% of urban population for receiving highly subsidized foodgrains, thus covering about two-thirds of the total population of the country which at Census 2011 comes to 81.35 crore.

Foodgrains under Act were to be made available at subsidized prices of Rs. 3/2/1 per kg for rice, wheat and coarse grains respectively for an initial period of three years from the date of commencement of the Act (July 5, 2013). Thereafter, prices were to be fixed by the Central Government from time to time, but not exceeding Minimum Support Price. Government had decided from time to time to continue the above-mentioned subsidized prices under NFSA.

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The Central Government to remove the financial burden of the poor beneficiaries and to ensure nationwide uniformity and effective implementation of the Act, has decided to provide food grains free of cost to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households and Priority Households (PHH) beneficiaries under NFSA, for a period of one year beginning from 1st January 2023. As per Central Government decision, inter-alia two food subsidy schemes have been subsumed as Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY). Under this scheme Free foodgrain is being distributed through Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) from 1st January 2023.
