

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

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1831  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2023

PDS CARDHOLDERS IN INDIA

1831 DR. V. SIVADASAN:

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

- (a) number of Public Distribution System (PDS) cardholders in the country including Above Poverty Line (APL) / Below Poverty line (BPL)-wise, State-wise, year-wise for the past five years;
- (b) number of incidences when ration was denied due to non-verification with Aadhaar; and
- (c) number of Indian citizens who are not PDS card holders or beneficiaries, the details thereof, State-wise?

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

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(a): As per the provisions of the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), the Department allocates foodgrains to all States/UTs for distribution to 19.80 Crore ration cardholders (i.e. around 80 Crore NFSA beneficiaries) under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Priority Household (PHH) categories of the Act. The NFSA is operational in a uniform manner in all States/UTs, and there is **no Above Poverty Line (APL)/ Below Poverty Line (BPL) category** under the Act.

(b): The Department has extended the timeline given to the States/UTs, under the Notification dated 08/02/2017 (as amended from time to time) issued in exercise of Section-7 of the Aadhaar Act 2016, for completing the Aadhaar seeding of ration cards up to 30/09/2023. Until then, all States/UTs have been advised that no genuine beneficiary/household shall be deleted from the list of eligible ration cards/ beneficiaries and shall not be denied their entitled quota of foodgrains under NFSA only for want of Aadhaar number or only on the ground of not possessing an Aadhaar number, failure of biometric authentication due to network/ connectivity/ linking issues or any other technical reasons etc.

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(c): National Food Security Act(NFSA) provides maximum coverage for about 81.35 Crore persons, out of which, currently around 80.10 crore persons are covered to avail free foodgrains under NFSA. The States/UTs can issue ration cards upto the ceiling limit prescribed under National Food Security Act (NFSA). State-wise list of NFSA beneficiaries as on 30/06/2023 is attached as **Annexure-I**.

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ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1831 FOR ANSWER ON 04.08.2023 IN THE RAJYA SABHA.

<b>State-wise Number of NFSA Beneficiaries As on 30.06.2023</b>		
<b>S. N.</b>	<b>States/UTs</b>	<b>Total Persons (in Lakh)</b>
1	Andhra Pradesh	268.22
2	Arunachal Pradesh	8.40
3	Assam	251.17
4	Bihar	871.16
5	Chhattisgarh	200.77
6	Delhi	72.78
7	Goa	5.32
8	Gujarat	344.15
9	Haryana	126.49
10	Himachal Pradesh	28.64
11	Jharkhand	264.19
12	Karnataka	401.93
13	Kerala	154.80
14	Madhya Pradesh	511.32
15	Maharashtra	700.17
16	Manipur	20.08
17	Meghalaya	21.46
18	Mizoram	6.81
19	Nagaland	14.05
20	Odisha	325.03
21	Punjab	141.51
22	Rajasthan	440.01
23	Sikkim	3.81
24	Tamil Nadu	364.12
25	Telangana	191.62
26	Tripura	24.43
27	Uttar Pradesh	1497.77
28	Uttarakhand	61.94

29	West Bengal	601.84
30	A&N	0.61
31	DNH&DD	2.69
32	Lakshadweep	0.22
33	Chandigarh (DBT)	2.99
34	Puducherry (DBT)	6.34
35	J&K	72.41
36	Ladakh	1.44
<b>Total</b>		<b>8010.70</b>

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