

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
STARRED QUESTION NO.63  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2023**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF PMGKAY**

\*63 SHRI DHANANJAY BHIMRAO MAHADIK:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is successfully implementing the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) introduced in 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that PMGKAY has been extended for a further period of 5 years; and
- (d) in what manner will it be helpful in eradication of malnutrition from the country?

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. \*63 FOR ANSWER ON 08.12.2023 IN THE RAJYA SABHA

(a) to (c): The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) was launched with the specific purpose of ameliorating the hardships faced by the poor and needy due to economic disruptions caused by the COVID-19 outbreak in the country. In view of COVID crisis, the allocation of free foodgrains, under PMGKAY was in addition to regular allocation done. A total quantity of approx. 1118 LMT foodgrains had been allocated under PMGKAY (Phase I-VII) for the period of 28 months with a total planned financial outlay was about Rs. 3.91 lakh crore.

The Central Government, in order to remove the financial burden of the poor beneficiaries and to ensure nationwide uniformity and effective implementation of the programme for support of the poor, the Central Government had decided to provide food grains free of cost to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households and Priority Households (PHH) beneficiaries, beginning from 1st January 2023 under PMGKAY.

Keeping in view welfare of the beneficiaries of PMGKAY in terms of accessibility, affordability and availability of food grains for the poor and to maintain uniformity across the States, the Government has decided to continue to provide free food grains to about 81.35 crore NFSA beneficiaries (i.e. AAY households and PHH) under the PMGKAY for a period of five years with effect from 1st January, 2024 with an estimated financial outlay of Rs 11.80 lakh crore. The entire cost of the food subsidy under the PMGKAY is to be incurred by the Government of India.

Under One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC), which is a successful initiative of portability of ration card, any beneficiary can take delivery of food grains from any Fair Price Shops at uniform entitlement and price across the country. The free food grains will concurrently ensure uniform implementation of portability under ONORC across the country and will further strengthen this choice-based platform. The ONORC plan, is enabled in all the 36 States/UTs, across the country, covering entire beneficiaries. Also, end to end computerization and digitization of TPDS that ensures transparency and rightful targeting of beneficiaries in the country through Aadhar-biometric authentication, has resulted in creating strong backbone for the implementation of ONORC. So far (since inception i.e August 2019 onwards), more than 124 crore portability transactions are recorded under ONORC. By giving free food grains, Government of India ensures nobody sleeps hungry. In so far as Department of Food & Public Distribution, Government of India is concerned, no State Government/Union Territory Administration has reported any incident of death due to hunger/starvation.

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(d): Government of India has a commitment to the people of the nation - a dignified life by ensuring them access to food and nutritional security through availability of adequate quantity of quality food grains. Special provisions have been made for pregnant women and lactating mothers and children in the age group of 6 months to 14 years, by entitling them to receive nutritious meal free of cost through a widespread network of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) centres, called Anganwadi Centres under ICDS scheme and also through schools under Mid-Day Meal (Now PM-POSHAN) scheme. Higher nutritional norms have been prescribed for malnourished children upto 6 years of age.

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