

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.714
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8TH DECEMBER, 2023

PM GARIB KALYAN ANNA YOJANA

714. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that distribution of free foodgrains under PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana for poor has been extended for the next five years;
- (b) the number of people going to be benefited from this move, particularly in Andhra Pradesh;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that population covered under this scheme is based on 2011 Census and there have been demands from States to extend this scheme to the poor people who have not been covered so far;
- (d) if so, the constraints that Government have in acceding to this request keeping in view the fact that the scheme benefits the poor and downtrodden?

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): Yes, sir. 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 the PMGKAY.

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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 beneficiaries (i.e. Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households and Priority Households (PHH) beneficiaries) 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 totally to be borne by Central Government.

The provision of free food grains under PMGKAY for five years with effect from 1st January 2024 reflects the long-term commitment and vision of the Government for addressing National food and nutrition security. Provision of free food grains shall mitigate any financial hardship of the affected strata of society in a sustainable manner and ensure long term pricing strategy with zero cost to the beneficiaries which is vital for effective penetration of the Public Distribution System.

At present, 2.68 crore beneficiaries in the State of Andhra Pradesh, are getting benefits of free foodgrains under the PMGKAY.

(c)& (d): Section 9 of the NFSA provides that the percentage coverage under the Targeted Public Distribution System in rural and urban areas for each State shall be determined by the Central Government and the total number of persons to be covered in the State shall be calculated on the basis of the population estimates as per the census of which the relevant figures have been published. At the time of implementation of NFSA, the latest published figures of the Census pertaining to the year 2011 was used to determine the coverage of all States/Union Territories (UTs).

Therefore, any revision in the coverage under the NFSA shall be possible only after the relevant data of the next population Census is published.
