

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.72
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2nd FEBRUARY, 2024

FINANCIAL ALLOCATION FOR PMGKAY

72 SHRI IRANNA KADADI:

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

- (a) the total planned financial allocation for the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) scheme and the number of beneficiaries provided with additional free-of-cost foodgrains under the PMGKAY scheme;
- (b) the manner in which PMGKAY was implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure the distribution of free foodgrains;
- (c) the measures taken to assist and uplift migrant workers and beneficiaries of the National Food Security Act (NFSA); and
- (d) a comprehensive list of States and Union Territories that have successfully implemented the One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) program till date?

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 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. Under the PMGKAY, the beneficiaries i.e. Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households and Priority Households (PHH) were entitled to receive additional 5 kilogram of foodgrains per person per month, in addition to regular allocation during the Covid-19. A total quantity of approx. 1118 LMT foodgrains was allocated under PMGKAY (Phase I-VII) for the period of 28 months with a total planned financial outlay of about Rs. 3.91 lakh crore.

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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, decided to provide food grains free of cost to AAY households and PHH beneficiaries, beginning from 1st January 2023 under the 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 beneficiaries (i.e. AAY households and 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.

(c) &(d): Government of India in association with all States/Union Territories is implementing the inter-State/ intra-State portability of ration card holders covered under the NFSA, through One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) plan. This system enabled the migratory ration card holders/ beneficiaries to lift their entitled foodgrains from any fair price shop (FPS) of their choice in the country by using their existing ration card issued in their home State/UT after biometric/ Aadhaar authentication on electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) devices installed at the FPS.

The One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) plan is successfully implemented by all the States/UTs.
