

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.78  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024

**SUPPLY OF FREE RATION TO THE POOR**

78 SHRI ANIL DESAI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government provided free ration to the poor families during the COVID-19 and afterwards, if so, details of the food items per person/family;
- (b) whether production of the items being supplied to these people was/is sufficient enough to provide year after year; and
- (c) whether any import has to be done for this purpose, if so, details thereof and the amount spent for the purpose?

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

(a): In view of the outbreak of Covid-19, Central Government had allocated foodgrains (Rice and Wheat) to all the States/UTs for about 80 crore persons under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), for distribution among beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 {i.e. Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households and Priority Households (PHH)}. Under the PMGKAY, the households covered under the NFSA were entitled to receive 5 kg of foodgrains per person per month, free of cost. The allocation of foodgrains under PMGKAY was in addition to their regular entitlements (i.e. 35 kg of foodgrains per month per AAY household and 5 kg of foodgrains per person per month for Priority Households). Approx. 1118 LMT foodgrains had been allocated under PMGKAY (Phase I-VII) for the period of 28 months from April 2020 to December 2022 with a total planned financial outlay was about Rs. 3.91 lakh crore. In addition to above, Government of India had also allocated 5.73 LMT of Pulses and 9.02 LMT of Whole Chana under PMGKAY.

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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 NFSA, had decided to provide food grains free of cost to the beneficiaries under AAY households (@35 Kg of food grains per family per month) and PHH beneficiaries (@5Kg of food grains per person per month) covered under NFSA, 2013, beginning from 1st Jan 2023.

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 under the PMGKAY for a period of five years with effect from 1st January, 2024. The entire cost of the food subsidy under the PMGKAY is to be incurred by the Government of India.

(b): Yes. Production of foodgrains (i.e. Wheat and Rice) is adequate to provide the foodgrains in various Government safety net programmes at present.

(c): FCI has informed that no foodgrains has been imported by it during Covid-19 and afterwards.

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