

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.868
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH FEBRUARY, 2024

REASSESSMENT OF PMGKAY

868 SMT. PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI:

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

- (a) whether goals and objectives of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) have been reassessed and adopted to reflect its shifting/transitional focus from pandemic relief to a five year programme;
- (b) to what extent the PMGKAY has achieved its initially intended outcomes in alleviating food insecurity during the pandemic, considering its specific objectives at launch;
- (c) the factors and considerations, beyond solely addressing food security needs, influencing the repeated extensions of the PMGKAY; and
- (d) the amount of foodgrains allocated and associated costs for the PMGKAY changed over time?

A N S W E R

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)**

(a) to (d): 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 for around 80 crore beneficiaries. 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 was about Rs. 3.91 lakh crore.

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The phase-wise details are as under:

PMGKAY launched during COVID	Duration	Quantity Allocated in LMTs	Financial Outlay planned
Phase – I (3 months)	April'20 – June'20	120 LMT	Rs. 44,834 Crore
Phase – II (5 months)	July'20- Nov.'20	201 LMT	Rs. 68,351 Crore
Phase – III (2 months)	May'21–June'21	80 LMT	Rs. 26,602 Crore
Phase – IV (5 months)	July'21- Nov.'21	199 LMT	Rs. 67,266 Crore
Phase – V (4 months)	Dec'21- Mar.'22	159 LMT	Rs. 53,344 Crore
Phase-VI (6 months)	April'22-Sep'22	239 LMT	Rs. 85,838 Crore
Phase-VII (3 months)	Oct'22-Dec'22	120 LMT	Rs. 44,762 Crore
Total (28 months)		1,118 LMT	Rs. 3.91 Lakh crore

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.

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.

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The scheme provides a unified institutional mechanism with uniform price and quantity across the country and remove difficulties of the beneficiaries specially migrants under One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC).Implementation of integrated initiative envisage making beneficiaries aware about the initiatives taken by Central Government and related subsidy burden as also their entitlements under PMGKAY.

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.
