

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1629  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 6<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2024**

**FEATURES OF PDS SCHEME**

1629 SHRI R. DHARMAR:

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

- (a) the features of the Public Distribution System (PDS) Scheme;
- (b) the details of funds sanctioned, allocated and utilized under this scheme within Tamil Nadu during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) the details of items being provided through PDS across the country including Tamil Nadu;
- (d) the details of the number of beneficiaries of this scheme within Tamil Nadu;
- (e) whether the digital system has helped in identifying the ineligible beneficiaries under this scheme; and
- (f) the details thereof along with efforts to improve efficiency and transparency of PDS operations?

**A N S W E R**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,  
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
**(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)**

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(a): The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is implemented under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 in all States/UTs. The Act provides coverage upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population for receiving foodgrains (rice, wheat & coarsegrains) under Priority Households (PHH) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY). The Priority Households are entitled to receive 5 kg of foodgrains per person per month and the households covered under the AAY receive 35 kg of foodgrains per month per household. Under the TPDS, foodgrains were provided at subsidized prices upto December, 2022. However, w.e.f. 1st January, 2023, foodgrains under the Act are being distributed to eligible beneficiaries free of cost under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana.

NFSA is operated under the joint responsibilities of the Central and State/UT Governments. Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation and transportation of foodgrains upto the designated depots of the Food Corporation of India (FCI). The operational responsibilities for identification of eligible beneficiaries/families, issuance of ration cards to them, distribution of foodgrains to eligible beneficiaries and supervision and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs), etc. rests with the concerned State/UT Government.

(b): The Government of India allocates subsidized foodgrains to States/UTs for monthly distribution to all NFSA ration card holders. The details of foodgrains allocated to Tamil Nadu during last three years as well as current year under this PDS scheme are at Annexure.

Further, the details of funds released under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Assistance to State Agencies for intra-state movement of foodgrains and FPS dealers' margin under NFSA" to the State of Tamil Nadu in the last three and current year is as follows:

(Fig. in crore)

State	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (upto June, 2024)	Total
Tamil Nadu	131.65	543.01	145.90	145.65	966.21

(c): As per National Food Security Act, 2013, the term "foodgrains" is defined as rice, wheat or coarsegrains or any combination thereof conforming to such quality norms as may be determined, by order, by the Central Government from time to time.

(d): The Act provides for coverage of 62.55% of the rural and 37.79% of the urban population, for receiving highly subsidized foodgrains, which at Census 2011, comes to 364.69 lakh persons.

At present, the State Government of Tamil Nadu has identified 364.12 lakh beneficiaries, which is 99.84% of total coverage.

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(e) and (f): As part of the technology driven Public Distribution System (PDS) reforms, with the aim to improve the efficiency and transparency of the PDS and to address various challenges such as leakages and diversion of foodgrains, ration cards/beneficiaries database have been completely digitized in all States/UTs. The transparency portal and online grievance redressal facility/Toll-free number have been implemented in all States/UTs. Also, online allocation has been implemented in all States/UTs (except UTs of Chandigarh and Puducherry which have adopted DBT Cash Transfer scheme) and supply chain has been computerized in 31 States/UTs. Further, nearly 5.41 Lakh out of total 5.43 Lakh Fair Price Shops (FPSs) in the country have been automated by installing ePoS devices for the distribution of foodgrains in a transparent manner (electronically) through biometric/Aadhaar authentication of beneficiaries.

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ANNEX REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1629 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 06.08.2024 IN THE RAJYA SABHA.

**Allocation and Offtake of foodgrains to Tamil Nadu under TPDS**

(In thousand tons)

Year	Foodgrains	Allocation			Offtake		
		NFSA	Tideover	Total	NFSA	Tideover	Total
2021-22	Rice	2303.736	1006.241	3309.977	1779.20	838.534	2617.740
	Wheat	255.971	111.805	367.776	226.745	101.634	328.379
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2559.707</b>	<b>1118.046</b>	<b>3677.753</b>	<b>2005.95</b>	<b>940.168</b>	<b>2946.119</b>
2022-23	Rice	2431.721	1099.412	3531.133	2008.67	921.076	2929.749
	Wheat	127.985	18.634	146.619	102.443	28.805	131.248
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2559.707</b>	<b>1118.046</b>	<b>3677.752</b>	<b>2111.11</b>	<b>949.881</b>	<b>3060.996</b>
2023-24	Rice	2466.751	1108.220	3574.971	2055.18	834.387	2889.569
	Wheat	102.781	0.000	102.781	102.296	0.000	102.296
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2569.532</b>	<b>1108.220</b>	<b>3677.752</b>	<b>2157.47</b>	<b>834.387</b>	<b>2991.865</b>
2024-25*	Rice	2469.895	1104.945	3574.840	597.253	276.236	873.489
	Wheat	102.912	0.000	102.912	25.727	0.000	25.727
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2572.807</b>	<b>1104.945</b>	<b>3677.752</b>	<b>622.981</b>	<b>276.236</b>	<b>899.217</b>

\*offtake of foodgrains is upto June, 2024

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