

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1641  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 6<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2024**

**INADEQUATE DATA IN PDS**

1641 SHRI BEEDHA MASTHAN RAO YADAV:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that, under NFSA through the Public Distribution Scheme, 67 per cent of total population, using rural-urban population ratio in 2011 is meant to be covered;
- (b) whether Government is aware that due to usage of outdated population data from 2011, millions of intended beneficiaries are being left out of the scheme;
- (c) whether Government has plans to plug data gaps of PDS so that all intended beneficiaries can be reached; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, before new Census data is available, how Government plans to redress significant number of people being excluded from PDS?

**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) & (b): The NFSA provides for coverage upto 75% of rural population and upto 50% of urban population for receiving highly subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), thus covering about a two-third of the total population which at Census 2011 comes to 81.35 crore. Coverage under the Act is substantially high to ensure that all the vulnerable and needy sections of the society get its benefit.

States/ Union Territories have also been advised to clean up their beneficiary database from time to time to ensure rightful targeting of beneficiaries and inclusion of deserving persons within the ceiling determined under the NFSA for availing benefits under the Act.

(c) & (d): Section 9 of the Act provides that the total number of persons to be covered in rural and urban areas of the State shall be calculated on the basis of the population estimates as per the Census of which the relevant figures have been published. Therefore, any revision in coverage shall be possible only after the relevant data of next population Census is published.

At present, against the intended coverage of 81.35 crore, the States/UTs have identified only 80.54 crore person. Still, there is a scope of identification of 0.81 crore more beneficiaries under the NFSA.

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