

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1636
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10TH DECEMBER, 2024

FREE FOODGRAINS AND PREVENTION OF LEAKAGE IN ITS DISTRIBUTION

1636 **SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA:**

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

- (a) the details of the number of people availing free foodgrains under various schemes in the last five years, year-wise;
- (b) how the total number of ration card holders has increased during that period and the reasons for this increase;
- (c) the percentage of the population currently benefited from free or subsidized foodgrain distribution schemes;
- (d) the measures taken to ensure transparency and prevent leakage in the distribution of free foodgrains; and
- (e) whether Government has conducted any impact assessment of these schemes on food security and poverty alleviation?

A N S W E R

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

(a) to (c): At present, against the total intended coverage of 81.35 Crore, 80.67 Crore persons are receiving food grains free of cost under The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) which comes to about 99.17% of total coverage. State wise coverage during the last 5 years may be seen at **Annexure I**.

The Central Government issues advisories to all the States/Union Territories from time to time to identify all eligible and poor persons/ households including vulnerable Sections of the Society for inclusion under the NFSA. States are undertaking updation of their beneficiary database so that ineligible ration cards get deleted and better targeting of rightful beneficiaries is ensured. Thus, deletion of ineligible beneficiaries and addition of eligible beneficiaries under the Act is a continuous process.

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(d): Under PDS reforms, ration cards/beneficiary's database have been completely digitized in all States/UTs. Transparency portal and online grievance redressal facility/Toll-free number have been implemented in all States/UTs. Further, online allocation has been implemented in all States/UTs (*except UTs of Chandigarh, Puducherry and urban areas of Dadra & Nagar Haveli which have adopted DBT Cash Transfer scheme*) and supply chain has been computerized. Presently, 99.8% ration cards are seeded with Aadhaar number at national level and almost all FPSs have been automated by installation of e-PoS devices for the distribution of food-grains in a transparent manner (electronically) through biometric /Aadhaar authentication of NFSA beneficiaries.

(e): This Department engaged Monitoring Institutions (MIs) of repute to undertake concurrent evaluation of the implementation of National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) in different States/UTs for Phase-I (2018-20) and Phase-II (2020-23). Reports submitted by the MIs are available in public domain at https://nfsa.gov.in/portal/Concurrent_Evaluation.

ANNEXURE I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (c) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1636 FOR ANSWER ON 10.12.2024 IN THE RAJYA SABHA.

Sl. No.	States/ UTs	Actual number of beneficiaries covered (In lakh)					
		As on 31.03.2020	As on 31.03.2021	As on 31.03.2022	As on 31.03.2023	As on 31.3.2024	As on 31.10.2024
1	Andhra Pradesh	268.22	268.22	268.22	268.22	268.22	268.22
2	Arunachal Pradesh	8.21	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4
3	Assam	251.53	250.3	251.17	251.17	251.17	251.17
4	Bihar	857.12	871.16	871.16	871.16	871.16	871.16
5	Chhattisgarh	200.77	200.77	200.77	200.77	200.77	200.77
6	Delhi	72.73	72.78	72.78	72.78	72.78	72.78
7	Goa	5.32	5.32	5.32	5.32	5.32	5.32
8	Gujarat	382.54	341.71	345.15	344.15	351.6	362.98
9	Haryana	126.49	126.49	126.49	126.49	126.49	126.49
10	Himachal Pradesh	28.64	28.64	28.64	28.64	28.64	29.88
11	Jharkhand	263.7	263.7	264.26	264.19	264.19	264.19
12	Karnataka	401.93	401.93	401.93	401.93	401.93	401.93
13	Kerala	154.8	154.8	154.8	154.8	154.8	154.8
14	Madhya Pradesh	546.42	470.47	482.59	511.32	534.79	534.79
15	Maharashtra	700.17	700.17	700.17	700.17	700.17	700.17
16	Manipur	24.57	18.6	19.97	20.08	20.08	20.87
17	Meghalaya	21.46	21.46	21.46	21.46	21.46	21.46
18	Mizoram	6.68	6.68	6.68	6.81	6.83	7.05
19	Nagaland	14.05	14.05	14.05	14.05	14.05	14.05
20	Odisha	323.6	324.33	324.15	325.03	325.98	325.17
21	Punjab	141.51	141.51	141.51	141.51	141.45	141.45
22	Rajasthan	446.63	440.01	440.01	440.01	440.01	440.01
23	Sikkim	3.79	3.79	3.79	3.81	3.81	3.81
24	Tamil Nadu	357.34	364.69	364.69	364.12	364.12	364.12
25	Telangana	191.62	191.62	191.62	191.62	191.62	191.7
26	Tripura	24.83	24.83	24.83	24.43	24.43	24.43
27	Uttar Pradesh	1520.59	1465.94	1487.44	1497.77	1505.19	1509.82
28	Uttarakhand	61.94	61.94	61.94	61.94	61.94	61.94
29	West Bengal	601.84	601.84	601.84	601.84	601.84	601.84
30	A&N	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61
31	DNH&DD	2.91	2.86	3.02	2.69	2.69	2.69
32	Lakshadweep	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22
33	Chandigarh (DBT)	2.8	2.8	2.76	2.99	2.99	2.99
34	Puducherry (DBT)	6.15	6.3	6.23	6.34	6.34	6.34
35	J&K	72.05	72.41	72.41	72.41	72.41	72.41
36	Ladakh	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44
Total		8095.22	7932.8	7972.53	8010.7	8049.94	8067.47
