

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.852  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER, 2024**

**OBJECTIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF PMGKAY**

852 SHRI DHANANJAY BHIMRAO MAHADIK:

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

- (a) the aims and objective behind launching of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) and achievement made since its inception;
- (b) the number of beneficiaries who have benefitted from the yojana in the State of Maharashtra;
- (c) the measures that Government has taken to ensure that the benefits of PMGKAY reach all eligible families, particularly SC/ST/OBC; and
- (d) the other steps taken by Government to ensure that the food provided under PMGKAY meets nutritional standards and is sufficient for the beneficiaries?

**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 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 done. The additional allocation of food grains under PMGKAY was only upto 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2022.

The Central Government, 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, 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. The period for distribution of free-of-cost foodgrains has been extended for five years from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024, with an estimated financial outlay of Rs. 11.80 lakh crore totally to be borne by Central Government.

(b): The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) provides for coverage of 76.32% of the rural and 45.34% of the urban population of the State of Maharashtra, which according to census, 2011 population is 700.17 lakh persons. At present, the State Government has identified beneficiaries up to the maximum permissible limit i.e. 700.17 lakh beneficiaries, for receiving free of cost foodgrains under the PMGKAY.

(c): Identification of beneficiaries under the PMGKAY is under two categories- households covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) to the extent specified by the Central Government and the remaining households as priority households to be identified by the State Governments/ Union Territories (UT) Administrations as per criteria evolved by them, within the coverage determined for the State/UT. The Central Government has issued advisories, from time to time, to all the States/Union Territories to identify all eligible and poor persons/ households including vulnerable Sections of the Society for inclusion under the PMGKAY.

There are no specific provisions under the Act for Schedule Castes (SC), Schedule Tribes (ST) and Other Backward Category (OBC), under the PMGKAY.

(d): The PMGKAY aims to supplement the food requirements of up to 75% of the rural and up to 50% of the urban population. To achieve the uniform nutritional impact of fortified rice among the targeted population, the Government of India is supplying fortified rice through the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) Scheme, and Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme and in other Welfare Schemes (OWS) in all States and Union Territories (UTs).

Custom-milled rice has been replaced with fortified rice in every scheme of the Government and 100% coverage of distribution of fortified rice has been achieved by March, 2024. Millets, which are commonly known as Nutri-Cereals, are already a part of Public Distribution System (PDS).

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