

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

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.133
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH MARCH, 2025

INCLUSION OF LOCALLY GROWN FOODS IN PDS/PMGKAY

133 DR. FAUZIA KHAN:

Will the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government plans to include locally grown foods, including grains, into the Public Distribution System (PDS) and Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana(PMGKAY) to enhance food and nutrition security;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether such an approach is expected to reduce the financial burden on the Union Government by promoting self-sufficiency at the local level?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND
MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 133 FOR ANSWER ON 11.03.2025 IN THE RAJYA SABHA.

(a) & (b): Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) being implemented in all the States/UTs, on an all India basis, aims to supplement the food requirements of upto 75% of the rural and upto 50% of the urban population which at Census 2011 comes to 81.35 crore beneficiaries. Under the PMGKAY, while Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households, which constitute poorest of the poor are entitled to 35 kg of foodgrains, per Household per month, Priority Households (PHH) are entitled to 5 kg of foodgrains per person per month at free of cost.

The PMGKAY is governed as per provisions of the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013. Under the Act, the term "foodgrains" is defined as rice, wheat or coarse grains or any combination thereof conforming to such quality norms as may be determined, by order, by the Central Government from time to time. No proposal to include more commodities under the NFSA is under consideration of the Government.

To improve the level of nutrition among the targeted beneficiaries covered under the NFSA, all the States/UTs have been advised to procure millets and distribute to NFSA beneficiaries as per local consumption preferences and as per guidelines issued by the Central Government from time to time.

In addition to this, the Act provides that pregnant women and lactating mothers and children in the age group of 6 months to 14 years are entitled to meals as per prescribed nutritional norms under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and PM-POSHAN schemes. Higher nutritional norms are prescribed for malnourished children upto 6 years of age. In order to enhance the Nutritional Standards of targeted beneficiaries under the Act, Central Government has amended the Schedule-II of the Act vide notification dated 25.01.2023.

(c): Yes, inclusion of locally grown foodgrains in Public Distribution System leads to reduction in the financial burden on account of reduction on various incidental charges including transportation charges. The States participating in Decentralized Procurement (DCP) System take the responsibility of procurement of foodgrains and its distribution to the eligible households. The scheme of Decentralized Procurement aims at reducing the transaction costs and enhancing the efficiency of procurement & public distribution.
