

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1313  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2025**

**ACUTE HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY**

1313 **SHRI BABUBHAI JESANGBHAI DESAI:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that several regions in the country are still facing acute hunger and food insecurity;
- (b) if so, the specific measures being planned or implemented to ensure targeted support to these areas under the PDS; and
- (c) the manner in which the Ministry is addressing the challenges posed by rising inflation on essential food items and the steps being taken to ensure that marginalized communities have access to affordable and nutritious food?

**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) to (c): To ensure adequate food security in the country, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) is being implemented in all the States/UTs, on an all India basis, 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.

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Additionally, free/subsidized foodgrains are also provided under Other Welfare Schemes (OWS). Moreover, Rice Fortification Initiative has been implemented to replace Custom-milled rice under all Central Government welfare schemes with fortified rice enriched with essential micronutrients such as iron, folic acid, and vitamin B12, to improve nutritional intake. All the States/UTs have also been advised to procure millets and distribute to PMGKAY beneficiaries as per local consumption preferences and as per guidelines issued by the Central Government from time to time.

In addition to this, the National Food Security Act (NFSA) also 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.

The steps taken by the Government to contain inflation includes: strengthening buffers of key food items and making periodic open market releases, easing imports of essential food items through trade policy measures, preventing hoarding through imposition/revision of stock limits, channeling supplies through designated retail outlets.

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