

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1949
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18TH MARCH, 2025

ANTYODAYA ANNA YOJANA

1949 SHRI NIRANJAN BISHI:
SMT. SULATA DEO:

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

- (a) the details of the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and its objectives;
- (b) the funds sanctioned, allocated and utilized under the scheme in Odisha during the last five years;
- (c) the criteria fixed by Government for the identification of beneficiaries, the targets set and achievements made under this scheme, so far;
- (d) the number of beneficiaries under AAY in Odisha and whether Government plans to increase the number of beneficiaries in Odisha and across the country; and
- (e) whether Government has noticed cases of ineligible persons benefiting from this scheme, if so, the details thereof, State-wise, along with the actions taken?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)

(a): The Antyodaya Anna Yojana(AAY) was introduced by the Government in December, 2000, for 1 crore poorest of poor families across the country to be identified from amongst the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in all States/UTs at that time. Since then, the coverage under AAY has been expanded three times i.e. during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06, covering additional 50 lakh households each time. The total coverage under AAY stands at up to 2.50 crore families at present. Under the TPDS, foodgrains were provided at subsidized prices upto December, 2022. However, w.e.f. 1st January, 2023, foodgrains under the Act are being distributed to eligible beneficiaries free of cost under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana.

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(b): The Government of India allocates subsidized foodgrains to States/UTs for monthly distribution to all NFSA ration card holders including AAY households. The details of foodgrains allocated to Odisha during the last five years as well as current year under AAY scheme, are as under:

(in Thousand Tons)

Financial Year	Allocation	Offtake
2019-20	520.671	482.069
2020-21	524.027	489.617
2021-22	528.348	477.954
2022-23	526.356	520.970
2023-24	526.414	622.727
2024-25 (up to February, 2025)	482.443	430.238

Further, Central Government provides Central assistance to States/Union Territories under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) for meeting expenditure on intra-State movement and handling of foodgrains and fair price shop dealers' margin as per the Food Security (Assistance to State Governments) Rules, 2015. The details of fund released to State Government of Odisha during the last five years as well as current year are as follows:

(Fig. in crore)

Financial Year	Amount released (Rs.)
2019-20	Nil
2020-21	18.44
2021-22	294.18
2022-23	110.86
2023-24	872.57
2024-25 (up to February, 2025)	47.05

(c) & (d): As per the guidelines issued by the Government, the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households are to be identified by States/Union Territories (UTs) as per the following criteria:

- (i) Landless agriculture labourers, marginal farmers, rural artisans /craftsmen, such as potters, tanners, weavers, blacksmiths, carpenters, slum dwellers and persons earning their livelihood on daily basis in the informal sector like porters, coolies, rickshaw pullers, hand cart pullers, fruit and flower sellers, snake charmers, rag pickers, cobblers, destitute and other similar categories in both rural and urban areas;
- (ii) Households headed by widows or terminally ill persons/disabled persons/ persons aged 60 years or more with no assured means of subsistence or societal support;
- (iii) Widows or terminally ill persons or disabled persons or persons aged 60 years or more or single women or single men with no family or societal support or assured means of subsistence;
- (iv) All primitive tribal households;
- (v) All eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families of HIV positive persons.

Presently, against the ceiling of 2.5 crore AAY households under NFSA, about 2.37 Crore AAY households are covered by the States/UTs in the country. In Odisha, against the ceiling of 12.65 lakh AAY households under NFSA, about 12.53 lakh AAY households are covered in the State. Accordingly, there is a scope for inclusion of additional eligible households, if any, upto the ceiling limit.

(e): The Public Distribution System (PDS) is operated under joint responsibilities of the Central and State/UT Governments. The operational responsibilities including identification of eligible households/beneficiaries, issuance of Ration Cards etc. rest with the respective State/UT Government. Further, as per clause 3 (13) of the TPDS Control Order, the State Government shall regularly review the list of the eligible households for the purpose of deletion of ineligible households or inclusion of eligible households upto the ceiling limit fixed for every State/UT.

Since the TPDS is operated under joint responsibility, as and when complaints for any State/UT are received in this Department from any source regarding any irregularities in the functioning of the TPDS, these complaints are forwarded to the concerned State/UT Government for inquiry and appropriate action at their end.
