

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2744
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25TH MARCH, 2025

LONG-TERM FOOD SECURITY PLANNING

2744 **SHRI BABUBHAI JESANGBHAI DESAI:**

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Ministry for long-term policies which are being formulated to ensure food security in the face of growing population, changing climate conditions, and global market fluctuations; and
- (b) the role of the technology in this strategy?

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

(a): The 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 persons. This provides food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food free of cost to people to live a life with dignity.

The Central Government, in order to remove the financial burden of the poor beneficiaries and to ensure nationwide uniformity and effective implementation of the PMGKAY, decided to provide food grains i.e. rice/ wheat/ coarsegrains at free of cost to beneficiaries i.e. AAY households and PHH beneficiaries, for a period of one year beginning from 1st January 2023 under the PMGKAY. The period for distribution of free of cost foodgrains has been extended for further five years i.e. from January 2024.

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(b): As part of the technology driven Public Distribution System (PDS) reforms, with the aim to improve the efficiency and reduce leakages in the PDS, the ration cards/beneficiaries database have been completely digitized (100%) in all States/UTs. The transparency portal and online grievance redressal facility/Toll-free number have been implemented in all States/UTs. Also, online allocation has been implemented in all States/UTs (except UTs of Chandigarh, Puducherry and Urban area of Dadra & Nagar Haveli, which have adopted DBT Cash Transfer scheme) and the supply chain has been computerized in 31 States/UTs. Further, 5.41 lakh (99.6%) out of total 5.43 lakh Fair Price Shops (FPSs) have been automated by installing ePoS devices for the distribution of foodgrains in a transparent manner (electronically) through biometric/Aadhaar authentication of beneficiaries under the PDS system
