

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2748
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25TH MARCH, 2025

BENEFICIARIES UNDER PMGKAY

2748 **SHRI KUNWAR RATANJEET PRATAP NARAYAN SINGH:**

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

- (a) the detailed data of the number of beneficiaries who received free food grains under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) in 2024 in comparison to last years;
- (b) the impact of PMGKAY in ensuring food security for economically weaker sections, especially during post-pandemic recovery in Kushinagar;
- (c) the measures taken to strengthen logistics and supply chain mechanisms for uninterrupted food grain distribution under PMGKAY; and
- (d) the technological interventions integrated to ensure transparency and reduce leakages in PMGKAY distribution?

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

(a): At present, against the intended coverage of 81.35 crores persons, 80.56 crore persons are receiving foodgrains free of cost. The comparative data of no. of beneficiaries in the last two years is as below:

	As on Feb 2025	As on 31.03.2024	As on 31.03.2023
No. of Beneficiaries (in crore)	80.56	80.49	80.10

(b): 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 status of allocation, lifting and distribution from April 2020 to December 2022 by all States/UTs under PMGKAY are as below:

PMGKAY	Duration	Allocation (in LMT)	Lifting (in LMT)	Distribution (in LMT)
Phase I	April'20-June'20	120	117.9	112.6
Phase II	July'20-Nov'20	201	187.01	186.2
Phase III	May'21-June'21	80	78.3	75.2
Phase IV	July'21-Nov'21	199	191.6	186.7
Phase V	Dec'21-Mar'22	159	153.54	149
Phase VI	April'22-Sep'22	239	217	217
Phase VII	Oct'22-Dec'22	120	92	88.27
		1118	1037	1015

Of the above figures, it is to mention that in the state of Uttar Pradesh (including Kushinagar), total distribution under PMGKAY during April'2020 to December'2022 stands at 182.99 LMT.

Post Pandemic, the Central Government, in order 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 1st January 2024, with an estimated financial outlay of Rs.11.80 lakh crore totally to be borne by Central Government.

(c) & (d): 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.

Further under the SMART PDS Scheme, complete digital solutions for supply chain logistics is under development for all 36 States/UTs.
