

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

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 101
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29TH JULY, 2025

BROADENING THE PDS BASKET

101 SMT. MAYA NAROLIYA:

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

- (a): the salient features of the Public Distribution System (PDS);
- (b): the essential commodities currently being distributed through PDS across the country;
- (c): whether Government is considering to include pulses and edible oil for distribution through PDS; and
- (d): whether there is any plan to distribute additional food items through PDS to strengthen nutrition in aspirational districts like Narmadapuram, Madhya Pradesh?

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 (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 101* FOR ANSWER ON 29.07.2025 REGARDING
'BROADENING THE PDS BASKET'

(a): The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is implemented under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 in all States/UTs. The Act provides coverage upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population for receiving foodgrains (rice, wheat & coarsegrains). Under the Act, eligible households comprise of Priority Households (PHH) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households. The Priority Households are entitled to receive 5 kg of foodgrains per person per month and the households covered under the AAY receive 35 kg of foodgrains per month per household. Under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), government has decided to continue to provide entitled food grains free of cost to about 81.35 crore eligible beneficiaries for a period of next five years with effect from 1st January, 2024, as per their entitlement.

NFSA is operated under the joint responsibilities of the Central and State/UT Governments. Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation and transportation of foodgrains. The operational responsibilities for identification of eligible beneficiaries/households, issuance of ration cards to them, distribution of foodgrains to eligible beneficiaries and supervision and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs), etc. rests with the concerned State/UT Government.

(b) to (d): Under the National Food Security Act, 2013, only foodgrains i.e. Rice, Wheat and Coarse grains are distributed to eligible beneficiaries. 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. In addition to this, the State/UT Governments may formulate food or nutrition based plans or schemes providing for benefits higher than the benefits provided under NFSA from their own resources.

There is no proposal by the Union Government to supply pulses and edible oils at subsidized rates through Public Distribution System (PDS).
