

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1806  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2025

**RESULT OF DELAYED CENSUS ON COVERAGE UNDER NFSA**

**1806 SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK:**  
**SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH:**

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

- (a): whether Government is aware that the delay in conducting the national census has resulted in crores of eligible citizens being excluded from coverage of the National Food Security Act, 2013;
- (b): the steps being taken to issue new ration cards or expand coverage to those currently left out due to outdated population figures;
- (c): whether Government has assessed the impact of Aadhaar seeding, mandatory KYC on the issuance and renewal of ration cards; and
- (d): the number of ration cards cancelled or withheld over the past five years due to non-linking with Aadhaar or failure to complete e-KYC formalities, year-wise

**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) & (b): National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 is being successfully implemented in all the States/UTs, 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 beneficiaries. Under the NFSA, 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.

The Coverage under the Act is substantially high to ensure that all the vulnerable and needy sections of the society get its benefit. The States/UTs have identified only 80.56 crore person, against the intended coverage of 81.35 crore person. Still, there is a scope for identification of 0.79 crore more beneficiaries, by the States/UTs, under the NFSA.

Under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Government, the responsibility for identification of beneficiaries and issuance of their ration cards rests with the concerned State Government. The Central Government issues advisories to all the States/Union Territories from time to time to identify all eligible and poor persons/ households including vulnerable Sections of the Society for inclusion under the NFSA. States are undertaking updation of their beneficiary

database so that ineligible ration cards get deleted and better targeting of rightful beneficiaries is ensured.

Section 9 of the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) provides that the total number of persons to be covered in rural and urban areas of the State shall be calculated on the basis of the population estimates as per the Census of which the relevant figures have been published. At the time of implementation of NFSA, the latest published figures of Census pertaining to the year 2011 was used to determine the coverage of all States/Union Territories (UTs).

Any revision in coverage shall be possible only after the relevant data of next population Census is published

(c) & (d): As an outcome of use of technology in TDPS operations since 2013, i.e digitization of Ration Card/Beneficiary database & Aadhar seeding has led to identification of duplicates, ineligible records, deaths, permanent migration of Beneficiary etc. This has led all States/UTs to able to weed-out approx. 2.19 crore ration cards in the last five year in order to achieve rightful targeting, as per the details given below: -

Year	No. of deleted Ration Cards
2019	5,990,446
2020	2,419,451
2021	2,902,794
2022	6,380,274
2023	4,199,373
Total	2,18,92,338

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