

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

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 24
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2ND DECEMBER, 2025

**IMPACT OF DELAYED CENSUS ON BENEFICIARY COVERAGE UNDER
NFSA**

24 **SHRI MOHAMMED NADIMUL HAQUE:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that the continued use of 2011 Census data under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 has led to the exclusion of an estimated 100-120 million eligible persons from the Public Distribution System;
- (b) the estimated number of persons who have been deprived of subsidised foodgrain entitlements due to such exclusion;
- (c) whether Government has considered using updated population projections or other administrative datasets to revise the coverage, pending the next Census; and
- (d) the interim measures, if any, taken by Government to ensure that newly eligible households are not deprived of subsidised foodgrain entitlements?

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 THE
STARRED QUESTION NO. *24 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 02.12.2025 IN THE
RAJYA SABHA

(a) & (b): The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) provides for coverage of upto 75% of rural population and upto 50% of urban population, thus covering about two-thirds of the total population of the country, which at Census 2011 comes to 81.35 crore. Coverage under the Act is substantially high to ensure that all the vulnerable and needy sections of the society get its benefit.

At present, against the intended coverage of 81.35 crore, the States/UTs have identified only 80.56 crore person. Still, there is a scope of identification of 0.79 crore more beneficiaries under the NFSA.

(c) & (d): Section 9 of the Act 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. Therefore, any revision in coverage shall be possible only after the relevant data of next population Census is published.
