

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

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 194
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10TH MARCH, 2026

OUTCOME OF EXTENDING PMGKAY BEYOND 2023

194 SMT. S. PHANGNON KONYAK:

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

- (a): the outcome of the extension of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) from January 2024 onwards; and
- (b): the reduction in out-of-pocket expenditure on food for beneficiary households?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTRY
OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(a) and (b): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) AND (b) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 194 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 10.03.2026 IN THE RAJYA SABHA.

(a) and (b): 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, the Central Government distributed food grains free of cost to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households and Priority Households (PHH) beneficiaries, for a period of one year, beginning from 1st January 2023 under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY).

Keeping in view welfare of the beneficiaries and in order to strengthen the food security in terms of accessibility, affordability and availability of food grains for the targeted population, and to maintain uniformity across the States, the decision was taken to continue providing food grains, free of cost, under PMGKAY for five years w.e.f 1st January 2024.

Government of India has a commitment to the people of the nation - a dignified life by ensuring them access to food and nutritional security through availability of adequate quantity of quality food grains. The scheme also provides a unified institutional mechanism with uniform price and quantity across the country and remove difficulties of the beneficiaries specially migrants under One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC).

The economic cost of 35 kg rice for an Antyodaya family comes to Rs.1461, while the cost of 35 kg wheat comes to Rs.1043, which is being borne by the Central Government under PMGKAY, and the foodgrains are provided completely free to the households. Thus, the monthly savings of ration card holders are significant, on account of the free foodgrains.
