

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1962
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10TH MARCH, 2026

BENEFICIARIES UNDER NFSA

1962 SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA:

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

- (a): the details of number of NFSA beneficiaries added and removed, State-wise and year-wise for the last five years;
- (b): whether 2.25 crore beneficiaries were removed from the beneficiary list recently;
- (c): if so, the details thereof, State-wise along with the reasons for removal;
- (d): whether individuals holding positions in Farmer Producer Organisations were considered 'company directors' for the purpose of NFSA beneficiary list; and
- (e): if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) to (c): As an outcome of the use of technology in Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) operations, i.e., digitization of ration cards/beneficiary databases, Aadhaar seeding, de-duplication process, identification of duplicates, ineligible records, deaths, permanent migration of beneficiaries, etc. all States/UTs have been able to weed-out approx. 2.25 crore ration cards between 2021 to 2025 (till date) in order to achieve rightful targeting. A statement showing deleted Ration Cards is at **Annexure**.

This exercise flagged approximate 8.51 Crore beneficiaries (2024 to 2025) and list of these flagged beneficiaries were shared with the respective State/UTs for conducting field verification and to take necessary action as deemed fit on these cases. Till date, the respective States/UTs have deleted 2.21 Crore beneficiaries of the above flagged beneficiaries, thus making space for eligible waitlisted beneficiaries.

(d) & (e): Under the Rightful Targeting initiative, the Department has integrated with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) database to identify NFSA beneficiaries who are listed as company directors. Such cases were flagged and shared with the respective States/UTs only for field-level verification.

States/UTs have been specifically advised that these flagged cases do not constitute automatic exclusion from the NFSA beneficiary list. They have been instructed to carefully examine such cases to ensure that farmers serving as directors in Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) are not wrongly excluded from the list of eligible beneficiaries.

States/UTs-wise deleted Ration Cards (2021-25)

Sl.	State/UT	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025(till date)
1	Andhra Pradesh	13,128	30,94,232	52,610	49,215	50,681
2	Andaman And Nicobar Islands	196	950	47	512	102
3	Arunachal Pradesh	-	1,151	328	268	1,128
4	Assam	11,120	28,590	38,590	1,61,516	24,381
5	Bihar	15,678	1,61,809	4,49,525	16,86,266	1,49,043
6	Chandigarh	-	684	2,291	207	2,401
7	Chhattisgarh	10,400	20,715	29,108	57,371	60,496
8	Dadar & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	2,454	73	1	151	1,101
9	Delhi	448	116	3,686	61,292	11,438
10	Goa	805	2,117	5,801	166	3,467
11	Gujarat	2,19,151	1,32,519	1,35,362	30,889	69,102
12	Haryana	-	1,96,174	8,49,972	3,28,557	13,43,474
13	Himachal Pradesh	2,538	3,299	7,551	9,673	7,400
14	Jammu And Kashmir	33,677	2,927	5,403	4,767	3,036
15	Jharkhand	-	75,137	29,771	6,374	67,730
16	Karnataka	42,558	48,477	74,401	27,105	50,594
17	Kerala	1,04,511	41,998	40,800	11,555	7,261
18	Ladakh	614	30	58	615	764
19	Lakshadweep	33	38	89	88	32
20	Madhya Pradesh	9,93,704	98,186	4,96,092	7,04,848	2,60,285
21	Maharashtra	36,119	1,44,985	2,01,676	1,74,342	1,33,469
22	Manipur	9,411	30,493	9,684	7,215	6,515
23	Meghalaya	-	402	1,612	449	102
24	Mizoram	1,637	3,617	4,115	2,548	742
25	Nagaland	-	3,428	3,177	3,924	1,347
26	Odisha	-	64,122	31,240	19,420	1,21,134
27	Puducherry	1,731	538	847	898	763
28	Punjab	3,305	1,52,497	1,23,722	7,520	2,290
29	Rajasthan	1,35,283	2,65,390	26,386	1,03,444	6,05,826
30	Sikkim	-	458	-	604	2,116
31	Tamil Nadu	2,00,942	86,150	73,875	63,905	33,339
32	Telangana	-	4,988	34,064	3,424	1,40,947
33	Tripura	1,100	1,254	800	467	4,334
34	Uttar Pradesh	7,19,213	9,99,100	7,00,138	8,41,123	5,97,012
35	Uttarakhand	49,712	66,627	9,691	4,589	3,014
36	West Bengal	2,93,326	6,47,003	7,56,860	5,09,952	3,74,519
	Total	29,02,794	63,80,274	41,99,373	48,85,259	41,41,385