

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2748
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17TH MARCH, 2026

TREND IN FOOD SUBSIDY EXPENDITURE

2748 # SHRI PRADIP KUMAR VARMA:

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

- (a): the total expenditure incurred on food subsidy during the last three financial years;
- (b): the number of beneficiaries under NFSA, category-wise;
- (c): the extent of coverage of DBT and digital distribution systems; and
- (d): the estimated food subsidy allocation for the upcoming financial year?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)

(a): The total food subsidy released by Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) from FY 2022-23 to till date (as on 12.03.2026) is as under:

Sr. No.	FY	Amount (in Rs. Crore)
1.	2022-23	272501.69
2.	2023-24	211394.39
3.	2024-25	199499.67
4.	2025-26 (as on 12.03.2026)	192535.13

(b): A statement containing category-wise and state-wise number of beneficiaries under NFSA is attached at **Annexure I**.

(c): PMGKAY is being implemented in Direct Cash Transfer mode in the UTs of Chandigarh, Puducherry and part of Dadra & Nagar Haveli as per the provisions of Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy Rule, 2015. DFPD has launched a pilot project on the use of Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) in the Public Distribution System (PDS) in the State of Gujarat on 15.02.2026. It has also launched a pilot project on use of CBDC for Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) under the PMGKAY in Puducherry on 26.02.2026. The CBDC shall offer a secure, instant, traceable, and programmable digital cash mechanism for PMGKAY beneficiaries,

enabling smoother fund flow and reducing friction in availing entitlements. The benefits of use of CBDC, inter alia, include empowerment to beneficiaries availing entitled foodgrains; convenience of wallet-based payments reducing cash handling & leakage.

As part of the Government's digital initiatives to enhance reach, effectiveness under PMGKAY and PDS, the ration card/beneficiary database has been 100% digitised across all States and Union Territories, with 99.7% ration cards Aadhaar-seeded and 99.2% beneficiaries aadhaar seeded. This has enabled beneficiaries to access their full entitlements at Fair Price Shops through e-PoS devices using their Ration Card Number or Aadhaar Number, with biometric authentication. Further, initiatives such as One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC), Mera Ration App and Anna Sahayata have expanded the reach of food security benefits, particularly to migrant and mobile populations, thereby improving the effectiveness of PMGKAY and PDS.

(d): The allocation made by Ministry of Finance (MoF) for Food subsidy under PMGKAY as per Budget Estimates (BE) of FY 2026-27 is Rs. 2,27,429 Crores.

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2748
FOR ANSWER ON 17.03.2026 IN THE RAJYA SABHA**

S.No.	State Name	Beneficiary Count (no. of persons)		
		AAY	PHH	Total
1	ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS	11,460	49,874	61,334
2	ANDHRA PRADESH	2,262,735	24,557,311	26,820,046
3	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	158,173	712,827	871,000
4	ASSAM	2,150,112	22,744,682	24,894,794
5	BIHAR	8,285,856	76,577,775	84,863,631
6	CHANDIGARH	909	342,045	342,954
7	CHHATTISGARH	1,863,494	18,110,189	19,973,683
8	DADAR & NAGAR HAVELI & DAMAN & DIU	20,720	242,655	263,375
9	DELHI	267,596	6,952,754	7,220,350
10	GOA	38,845	437,458	476,303
11	GUJARAT	3,194,939	30,495,464	33,690,403
12	HARYANA	814,199	11,834,801	12,649,000
13	HIMACHAL PRADESH	636,101	2,218,560	2,854,661
14	JAMMU AND KASHMIR	879,506	5,867,666	6,747,172
15	JHARKHAND	3,370,486	22,920,643	26,291,129
16	KARNATAKA	4,291,855	35,901,388	40,193,243
17	KERALA	1,857,601	13,207,569	15,065,170
18	LADAKH	19,011	94,792	113,803
19	LAKSHADWEEP	4,044	16,051	20,095
20	MADHYA PRADESH	4,740,698	49,066,439	53,807,137
21	MAHARASHTRA	9,838,956	58,303,381	68,142,337
22	MANIPUR	186,879	1,923,499	2,110,378
23	MEGHALAYA	289,823	1,847,032	2,136,855
24	MIZORAM	63,176	642,824	706,000
25	NAGALAND	130,642	1,004,928	1,135,570
26	ODISHA	3,430,666	28,948,298	32,378,964
27	PUDUCHERRY	77,275	556,725	634,000
28	PUNJAB	323,314	13,827,686	14,151,000
29	RAJASTHAN	1,920,354	42,059,930	43,980,284
30	SIKKIM	57,794	318,786	376,580
31	TAMIL NADU	6,401,469	30,068,531	36,470,000
32	TELANGANA	1,567,671	17,512,350	19,080,021
33	TRIPURA	435,055	1,899,809	2,334,864
34	UTTARAKHAND	669,573	5,353,811	6,023,384
35	UTTAR PRADESH	12,815,334	134,332,094	147,147,428
36	WEST BENGAL	5,288,451	54,687,215	59,975,666
	Total	78,364,772	715,637,842	794,002,614