

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2749  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026**

**EXPENDITURE ROADMAP FOR EXTENDING PMGKAY**

**2749 SHRI ASHOKRAO SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:  
SMT. KIRAN CHOUDHRY:  
SHRI LAHAR SINGH SIROYA:  
SHRI SADANAND MHALU SHET TANAVADE:**

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

- (a): whether Government has finalised the expenditure roadmap for the extension of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) through 2029;
- (b): if so, the details thereof;
- (c): how the Ministry is addressing the gap between sanctioned beneficiaries and the current identified persons to ensure universal coverage;
- (d): the specific measures being taken to update the beneficiary list in the absence of the decadal census data;
- (e): whether the Ministry has successfully achieved 100 per cent Aadhaar seeding and e-KYC for all active ration cards across the country by February, 2026 deadline; and
- (f): if so, the details thereof?

**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): The Central Government, in order to remove the financial burden of the poor beneficiaries and to ensure nationwide uniformity had distributed food grains free of cost to beneficiaries i.e. 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 Grib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY). The period for distribution of free of cost foodgrains has been extended for further five years i.e. from 1st January, 2024, with an estimated financial outlay of Rs. 11.80 lakh crore totally to be borne by Central Government. At present, no proposal

for extension of PMGKAY beyond 31 December 2028 is under consideration of the Government.

(c) & (d): The Pradhan Mantri Grib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) provides for coverage upto 75% of rural population and upto 50% of urban population for receiving free of cost foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), thus covering about 67% of the bottom population 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 79.40 crore person, which is about 97.60% of the intended coverage i.e. 81.35 crore persons. Still, there is a scope of identification of 1.95 crore more beneficiaries under the PMGKAY.

The Central Government has issued 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 undertake updation of their beneficiary database so that ineligible ration cards get deleted and better targeting of rightful beneficiaries is ensured. Thus, deletion of ineligible beneficiaries and addition of eligible beneficiaries under the Act is a continuous process.

(e) & (f): As part of the Government's digital initiatives to enhance reach, effectiveness under PMGKAY and the Public Distribution System (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. Further, 87.37% of the e-KYC for all beneficiaries of PMGKAY have been completed across the country till 31.01.2026.

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