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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2758
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17TH MARCH, 2026

RICE ALLOCATION UNDER ANNAPOORNA SCHEME

2758   SHRI A. A. RAHIM:

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

(a):   the quantity of Rice allocated under the Annapoorna Scheme during each of the last four years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b):   the number of beneficiaries covered under the Annapoorna Scheme during the same period, State-wise and year-wise;

(c):   whether Government has examined the eligibility criteria for the scheme, particularly the provision that persons receiving old age pension are excluded from coverage, if so, the findings of such examination; and

(d):   whether Government is ready to modify the eligibility criteria to remove conditions that exclude elderly persons receiving old age pensions?

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

(a) to (c): Annapurna Scheme is a demand-based sub-scheme of National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP). Under this scheme, 10 kg of food grains per month are provided free of cost to senior citizens (under BPL category) who, though eligible, are not receiving old-age pension benefits. With the implementation of National Food Security Act, 2013, the lifting of food grains under the Annapurna scheme has shown a declining trend since 2016-17 and has been "Nil" for the last five years.

Annapurna scheme was aimed at providing food security to meet the requirement of those senior citizens who, though eligible, have remained uncovered under the old age pension scheme under NSAP. Furthermore, States have the option to extend financial assistance from their own resources to cover additional eligible beneficiaries through state specific schemes.

(d):   No, at present there is no such proposal under consideration in this regard.

*****