

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

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 175
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04TH AUGUST, 2026

RICE ALLOCATION UNDER AAY

FOOD SECURITY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION MECHANISMS IN TAMIL NADU

175 DR. M. DHANAPAL:

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

- (a) Government's assessment of food-security and consumer-protection mechanisms operating in the State of Tamil Nadu and their effectiveness in reaching beneficiaries;
- (b) the measures undertaken for improving transparency, digitisation and efficiency of the Public Distribution System in the State;
- (c) the major challenges affecting distribution of essential commodities and consumer grievance redressal in the State;
- (d) the initiatives proposed to be taken for strengthening food-security delivery and consumer-awareness programmes in the State; and
- (e) the district-wise number of beneficiaries covered under food-security schemes in the State during the last three years?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTRY
OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) of STARRED QUESTION NO. 175 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 04.08.2026 IN THE RAJYA SABHA.

(a): In order to ensure food security, the Government is successfully implementing the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) in all the States/UTs including Tamil Nadu. To strengthen the monitoring of implementation of the Act and to provide a more in-depth, incisive and comprehensive empirical evidence on a regular basis, the Government has conducted the concurrent evaluation of PMGKAY during 2025-26.

The Government has implemented the e-Jagriti platform, which aims to enhance consumer grievance redressal by integrating AI/ML technologies, faceless onboarding, digital document submission, online fee payments, and virtual courtrooms. Tamil Nadu's State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (SCDRC) achieved a disposal rate of above 100% after July 2025 using the newly launched "e-Jagriti" portal.

Beneficiaries can access pre-litigation grievance redressal in Tamil (among 17 languages) through the National Consumer Helpline (NCH) toll-free number 1915 or digital channels such as WhatsApp (8800001915), SMS, email, the NCH app, the web portal, and the Umang app.

The Central Consumer Protection Authority enforces guidelines on misleading advertisements, endorsements, service charges in hotels/restaurants, dark patterns (2023), greenwashing (2024), the coaching sector (2024), and illegal e-commerce sales of radio equipment/walkie-talkies (2025).

(b): To enhance transparency, digitisation, and overall efficiency across the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), the Government has implemented key initiatives including 100% database digitization & Aadhaar seeding of Ration Cards, Rightful Targeting through data analytics, online grain allocation, supply chain computerisation, and transparency and grievance portals across all States and UTs. Additionally, distribution has been streamlined through ePoS-automated Fair Price Shops with biometric authentication, nationwide card portability via the One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) scheme, implementation of SMART-PDS, and proposed real-time data integration and tracking under the NIRMAL and SAKSHAM initiatives of the SARTHAK PDS umbrella scheme (2026–31).

(c): The National Food Security Act, 2013 is being successfully implemented in the State of Tamil Nadu and free of cost foodgrains are being distributed to eligible identified beneficiaries. The Act further provides for putting in place an internal grievance redressal mechanism (IGRM), appointment/ designation of a District Grievance Redressal Officer (DGRO) in each district for expeditious and effective redressal of grievances of the aggrieved persons in matters relating to the distribution of entitled foodgrains and to enforce the entitlements under the Act. The Act also provides for the constitution/ designation of the State Food Commission for monitoring and review of implementation of the Act.

(d): The Government strengthens food security delivery by ensuring free-of-cost foodgrains distribution to eligible beneficiaries through PMGKAY. Delivery efficiency is enhanced via Point of Sale (PoS) automation at Fair Price Shops and One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) portability.

Tamil Nadu is actively strengthening food security delivery through strategically located Fair Price Shops, mobile units, and Intra-State Portability. The enhanced system ensures reliable commodity distribution for vulnerable populations via authorised representatives.

Tamil Nadu's consumer welfare framework strengthens grievance redressal via a dedicated portal and app with time-bound disposals. Planned initiatives feature digital campaigns and state-wide events for National and World Consumer Days. Additional measures include expanding the reach of the "Tamil Nadu Nugarvor Kavasam" magazine and organizing seminars on e-commerce and digital scams.

(e): The district-wise number of beneficiaries covered under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) in the State of Tamil Nadu during the last three years is at **Annexure**.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN PART (e) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 175 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 04.08.2026 REGARDING “FOOD SECURITY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION MECHANISMS IN TAMIL NADU”.

District-wise number of beneficiaries covered under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) in the State of Tamil Nadu during the last three years

S.No.	District Name	No. of beneficiaries as on 31.03.2024	No. of beneficiaries as on 31.03.2025	No. of beneficiaries as on 31.03.2026
1	Ariyalur	543507	531856	561424
2	Chengalpet	709368	694368	752811
3	Coimbatore	1214891	1177401	1201015
4	Cuddalore	1642091	1599880	1583141
5	Dharmapuri	992814	974351	987134
6	Dindigul	1076123	1056588	1107621
7	Erode	923394	903364	991571
8	Kallakurichi	1039302	1022768	1067635
9	Kanchipuram	582023	571923	648725
10	Kanyakumari	1012876	990638	986395
11	Karur	523478	511963	525022
12	Krishnagiri	1016835	1008483	993184
13	Madurai	1398148	1350004	1360767
14	Mayiladuthurai	568723	553571	581901
15	Nagapattinam	468215	457808	473273
16	Namakkal	791270	772668	863662
17	Nilgiris	433128	421133	411335
18	North Chennai	1453812	1412795	1437969
19	Perambalur	356917	349684	356106
20	Pudukkottai	1133171	1118812	1127519
21	Ramanathapuram	797627	777312	751378
22	Ranipet	523026	514358	542571
23	Salem	1780748	1731386	1774168
24	Sivagangai	787584	771076	770329
25	South Chennai	1095075	1072407	1064379
26	Tenkasi	752664	730332	736588
27	Thanjavur	1328541	1300009	1314354
28	Theni	647115	632475	666571
29	Thiruchirapalli	1305166	1291397	1305520
30	Thiruvallur	905950	888805	910579
31	Thiruvannamalai	1650754	1613286	1619889
32	Thiruvarur	768588	755225	761593
33	Tirunelveli	757785	733868	738620
34	Tirupathur	629665	612638	644786

35	Tiruppur	830113	810606	860729
36	Tuticorin	960573	920693	922594
37	Vellore	665679	651975	671537
38	Viluppuram	1347062	1319194	1319141
39	Virudhunagar	947853	917568	943145
Total		36361654	35524668	36336681
