

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

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 253
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH AUGUST, 2026

PENDENCY IN ISSUING RATION CARDS UNDER NFSA IN ODISHA

*253 DR. SANTRUPT MISRA:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that many eligible beneficiaries in Odisha are yet to receive ration cards under the National Food Security Act (NFSA);
- (b) whether any assessment has been made of eligible households awaiting inclusion under the NFSA;
- (c) whether Government proposes to enhance State-wise NFSA coverage to include all eligible beneficiaries;
- (d) the steps taken to ensure transparent and timely issuance of ration cards; and
- (e) the details of beneficiaries covered, pending applications and additional allocations made to Odisha during the last three years?

A N S W E R
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. 253 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 11.08.2026 IN THE RAJYA SABHA.

(a) & (b): The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) is being successfully implemented in all the States/UTs, including in the State of Odisha. The Act provides for coverage of 82.17% of the rural and 55.77% of the urban population of Odisha, which at Census 2011 comes out to 326.21 lakh persons. At present, against the intended coverage of 326.21 lakh persons, the State of Odisha has identified 321.93 lakh (as on 16.07.2026) beneficiaries for distribution of free of cost foodgrains under the NFSA. Still, there is a scope for identification of 4.28 lakh more beneficiaries by the State Government of Odisha, under the NFSA.

(c) to (e): Under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State Governments, the responsibility for identification of beneficiaries, within the coverage determined for the State/UT and issuance of their ration cards rests with the concerned States/UTs. 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 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.

The details of the beneficiaries covered in the State of Odisha during the last three years is as follows: -

State	2023	2024	2025	2026*
Odisha	3,25,02,104	3,23,92,303	3,25,64,555	3,21,93,059

*-as on 16.07.2026

Further, to enhance transparency and overall efficiency across the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), the Government has implemented key initiatives including 100% database digitisation & 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.

No additional allocation has been made to the State of Odisha during the last three years in view of festivals, law & order and natural calamities.
