

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 203  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 21<sup>ST</sup> JULY, 2026**

**STATUS OF FOODGRAIN PROCUREMENT, STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION**

203 **SHRI S. SELVAGANABATHY:**  
**SHRI RAJIB BHATTACHARJEE:**  
**DR. KALPANA SAINI:**  
**SHRI ASHOKRAO SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:**  
**SHRI BABURAM NISHAD:**  
**DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI:**  
**SHRI GHANSHYAM TIWARI:**

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

- (a): the current status of foodgrain procurement, storage and distribution under the Public Distribution System (PDS) and Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS);
- (b): the steps taken to strengthen the One Nation One Ration Card system and digitisation of Fair Price Shops (FPS);
- (c): the measures implemented to control food inflation and ensure buffer stock management; and
- (d): the impact of these initiatives on overall food security, nutritional outcomes and welfare of vulnerable sections of society?

**A N S W E R**  
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,  
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
**(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)**

---

(a) As on 12.07.2026, a total of 834.47 LMT of paddy has been procured during KMS 2025–26. Further, during RMS 2026–27, a total of 357.57 LMT of wheat has been procured.

Procurement of coarse grains is regulated by guidelines for allocation, distribution, and disposal of coarse grains (Jowar, Bajra, Maize & Ragi etc.) and 6 minor millets procured by the States. Under these guidelines, States are allowed to procure these commodities in Decentralized Procurement mode from farmers at Minimum Support Price (MSP) for distribution under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)/Other Welfare Schemes(OWS).

Department of Food & Public Distribution (DFPD) is augmenting its storage capacity by creating capacities through Food Corporation of India (FCI). FCI continuously assesses and

monitors the storage capacity and based on the storage gap assessment, storage capacities are created/hired, through following schemes:

1. Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme
2. Central Sector Scheme (CSS) “Storage & Godowns” (Focus on NE)
3. Hiring of godown from CWC/SWCs/State Agencies
4. Private Warehousing Scheme (PWS)
5. Creation of godown under Asset Monetization
6. Construction of SILOs under Public Private Partner-ship (PPP) mode
7. Modified PEG scheme for NE & Hilly states with longer guarantee period of 15 years
8. CAP Hiring Scheme -2025

Under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), free foodgrains comprising rice, wheat and coarse grains are being provided to 79.09 crore beneficiaries across all 36 States/UTs. Each Priority Household beneficiary receives 5 kg of foodgrains per month, while each Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) household receives 35 kg food grains per household per month, free of cost, with the entire food subsidy borne by the Government of India. Distribution is carried out through over 5.51 lakh Fair Price Shops (FPSs) using Aadhaar-authenticated electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) devices, ensuring transparent, efficient and leak-proof delivery of foodgrains to eligible beneficiaries.

(b): The One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) system has been implemented across all 36 States/UTs, enabling NFSA beneficiaries to access their entitled foodgrains from any Fair Price Shop in the country through Aadhaar-based biometric or OTP authentication. Since its launch, over 221 crore portability transactions have been recorded, benefiting migrant beneficiaries. Further, over 5.50 lakh Fair Price Shops of the total 5.51 lakh Fair Price Shops have been digitised with ePoS devices, and 98.5% Aadhaar authenticated distribution is carried out, ensuring transparency and real-time monitoring. Aadhaar has been seeded with 99.7% of ration cards and an eKYC drive is underway to eliminate duplicate, silent and ineligible beneficiaries. Mobile number seeding with OTP-based verification has also been introduced to strengthen beneficiary authentication and improve service delivery.

(c): To ensure availability of food grains during emergencies and to maintain food security, the Government maintains buffer stocks of key commodities such as wheat and rice in accordance with prescribed buffer stock norms. Adequate quantities are procured during harvest seasons at Minimum Support Price (MSP) through central and de-centralized procurement mechanisms. The buffer stocks are managed through scientific storage practices, periodic review of stock position, and regular rotation of food grains to prevent deterioration.

The Buffer Norms of food grains for the Central Pool are as under:

(fig. in Lakh Metric Tonnes)

| As on       | Rice  | Wheat | Total |
|-------------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1st April   | 135.8 | 74.6  | 210.4 |
| 1st July    | 135.4 | 275.8 | 411.2 |
| 1st October | 102.5 | 205.2 | 307.7 |
| 1st January | 76.1  | 138.0 | 214.1 |

Government of India sells surplus food grains (Wheat & Rice), beyond the buffer norms and the requirement under Public Distribution System (PDS) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS), through open sale under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) (OMSS(D)). This helps increase the availability of foodgrains in the market, control inflation, ensure food security and make foodgrains more affordable for the general population. In addition, Bharat Atta and Bharat Rice were launched in 2023 and 2024, respectively, with a view to provide atta (wheat flour) and rice to general consumers at subsidized rates under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) [OMSS(D)] policy.

(d): The above initiatives have significantly strengthened food security and welfare of all PMGKAY beneficiaries. Free foodgrains under PMGKAY have ensured food security for about 79.09 crore beneficiaries. ONORC has enabled migrant workers and their families to access foodgrains anywhere in the country through over 221 crore portability transactions, improving continuity of food security. Aadhaar-authenticated ePoS distribution and eKYC based beneficiary verification have reduced leakages. Additionally the Rightful Targeting exercise has helped remove ineligible beneficiaries across all States/UTs after field verification. AI-enabled grievance redressal platforms, toll-free helplines and multilingual support have further strengthened beneficiary empowerment and accountability in the Public Distribution System. Collectively, these initiatives have enhanced transparency, ensured timely delivery of entitlements, improved targeting, reduced exclusion and contributed to improved food security and nutritional outcomes for vulnerable households across the country.

\*\*\*\*\*