

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 206  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21<sup>ST</sup> JULY, 2026

**BENEFICIARIES UNDER PMGKAY**

**206 DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL:**

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

- (a): the total number of beneficiaries currently receiving free foodgrains under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY);
- (b): the details of central funds allocated and foodgrains distributed under this welfare scheme during the last financial year;
- (c): the current progress of the 'One Nation One Ration Card' initiative in facilitating inter-State portability for migrant laborers;
- (d): the steps taken to modernize Food Corporation of India godowns with scientific storage and automated inventory systems; and
- (e): the measures implemented to eliminate leakages in the Public Distribution System?

**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): At present, 79.09 Crore beneficiaries (as on 08.07.2026) are currently receiving free food grains under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY).

(b): During the FY 2025-26, a total of 490.56 LMT of food grains was distributed under PMGKAY. Further, the Department of Food & Public Distribution reimburses the expenditure incurred by States that have opted for Decentralized Procurement (DCP) mode for distribution of food-grains to the beneficiaries of Central Schemes as per allocation made by Government of India. Further, funds are also released by Food Corporation of India (FCI) to the States for the quantum of food-grains handed over to them by States for Central Pool. The difference between Economic Cost and Central Issue Price (CIP), at which foodgrains (Wheat, Rice and Coarse grains) are issued to States, is reimbursed to FCI and DCP States as food subsidy. Funds are also released to Food Corporation of India (FCI) for maintenance of buffer stocks. The food subsidy released to DCP States & FCI is made as per budgetary allocation made by MoF. The two food subsidy schemes (Food Subsidy to FCI and Food Subsidy to DCP States) have been subsumed as Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY). During FY 2025-26, the food subsidy under PMGKAY as allocated by MoF has been completely released by DFPD to FCI and DCP States as below:

(Rs. In Crore)

| <b>Financial Year</b> | <b>FCI</b> | <b>DCP States</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|-----------------------|------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 2025-26               | 153820.86  | 73919.1           | 227739.96    |

(c): The nationwide portability of ration cards i.e. One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) is available to all (approx.) 80 Crore PMGKAY beneficiaries. ONORC feature is enabled in all 36 States/UTs, across the country, covering all 100% PMGKAY beneficiaries. As on date, more than 221 Crore portability transactions (including migrant labourers) have been recorded under ONORC.

(d): The Department of Food & Public Distribution (DFPD) has taken following scientific initiatives to modernize Food Corporation of India's foodgrain storage, handling and supply chains through technologies such as scientific silos, digital monitoring and real-time tracking:-

**Smart Warehouse Project :** Under this project, traditional depots are converted into smart warehouses which are equipped with different sensors like smoke sensors, fire sensors & gate opening sensor etc. for monitoring key parameters such as CO<sub>2</sub>, phosphine levels, fire hazards, humidity, unauthorized entry and temperature on real time basis.

Smart warehouse ensures real-time visibility, timely intervention, data-driven decision-making & standardized operations across all depots contributing to ensure safe, secure, and efficient food grain storage and distribution.

**Depot Darpan Portal:** Depot Darpan Portal is a digital platform launched by DFPD to enhance the monitoring, transparency and efficiency of food-grain storage depots & warehouses under PDS.

**Key features and purpose of Depot Darpan:**

- i. Depot/warehouse managers assess the infrastructure of their depots through uploading geo-tagged data regarding infrastructure and operations. .
- ii. Portal uses a composite scoring system, assessing depots on two broad categories: infrastructure (safety, storage conditions, technology use, compliance) and operational parameters (stock turnover, losses, space utilization, manpower costs etc.).
- iii. Based on the scores, each depot receives a star rating, which is meant to provide a quick assessment of depot performance.
- iv. Validation of data is built into the process via 100% supervisory officer verification and some random third-party audits to ensure reliability.
- v. All the FCI's owned and hired warehouses are covered under Depot Darpan portal.

**Silos-Scientific Storage of Foodgrains:** Silo storage represents a highly mechanized and modern method of bulk foodgrains storage, ensuring superior preservation and enhanced shelf life. It requires only one-third of the land area compared to conventional storage methods, lowers transit and overhead costs such as those associated with gunny bags, reduces manpower requirements, and ensures consistent quality through scientific handling and storage practices.

(e): Present Status of modernization efforts of Public Distribution System in all States/UTs to prevent leakage and improve monitoring of PDS operations are as follows –

**i. Digitisation & Aadhaar seeding:** Ration cards/beneficiary database 100% digitised in all States/UTs; 99.7% of ration cards Aadhaar-seeded, eliminating bogus/duplicate cards.

**ii. Transparency & grievance redressal:** Transparency portals and online grievance redressal/toll-free helplines operational in all States/UTs.

**iii. Online allocation & supply chain computerisation:** Online allocation implemented in all States/UTs; supply chain computerised in 31 States/UTs (except Chandigarh, Puducherry and urban Dadra & Nagar Haveli, which have adopted DBT Cash Transfer).

**iv. ePoS-based Aadhaar authentication at FPS level:** 5.50 lakh (99.8%) of 5.51 lakh Fair Price Shops automated with ePoS devices, ensuring biometric authentication of beneficiaries at the point of distribution and curbing diversion.

**v. One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC):** Nationwide portability implemented across all 36 States/UTs, covering all PMGKAY beneficiaries; over 221 crore portability transactions recorded to date, reducing exclusion and duplicate entitlement claims.

**vi. Rightful Targeting (RT):** A dedicated de-duplication and beneficiary-verification exercise using Aadhaar/PDS data analytics has led to identification and deletion of ineligible/duplicate beneficiaries, with 5.95 Cr flagged beneficiaries (excluding landholding cases) and 2.35 Cr deleted beneficiaries.

**vii. SMART-PDS reform initiative:** Being implemented with modules for Ration Card Management, Distribution, Supply Chain and Grievance Redressal to further standardise and digitally integrate State-level TPDS operations.

**viii. NIRMAL & SAKSHAM:** New initiatives under the SARTHAK PDS Umbrella Scheme (2026–31) aimed at strengthening data architecture/analytics (NIRMAL) and device lifecycle management of FPS ePoS equipment (SAKSHAM) to sustain leakage-free operations.

**ix.** Helpline number 1967/1800-State series number is operational in all the States/ UTs for contacting and redressal of the complaints in Public Distribution System and filing any type of complaints by the intended beneficiaries. Accordingly, as and when any type of complaints/ grievances related to TDS, including leakages of PDS foodgrains are received in this Department from any source, they are sent to concerned State/ UT Governments for inquiry and appropriate action.

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