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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 209
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21ST JULY, 2026

DISTRIBUTION OF FORTIFIED FOODGRAINS UNDER NFSA

209 SMT. GEETA ALIAS CHANDRAPRABHA:

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

(a): the national compliance status of fortified foodgrain distribution under National Food Security Act (NFSA), covering 75 per cent rural and 50 per cent urban populations;

(b): the utilization of ₹40,093 crore allocated to Uttar Pradesh under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) for 14.71 crore beneficiaries; and

(c): the plans to expand smart ration card systems or Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in Auraiya's 16 lakh NFSA beneficiaries to reduce leakages, as flagged in Jal Jeevan Mission audits?

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

(a): National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, being successfully implemented in all the States/UTs, aims to supplement the food requirements of up to 75% of the rural and up to 50% of the urban population, which at Census 2011 comes to 81.35 crore beneficiaries. Currently, the States/UTs have identified and covered 79.09 (as on 08.07.2026) crore persons under the NFSA.

The custom-milled rice has been replaced with fortified rice in every scheme of the Government, and 100% coverage of distribution of fortified rice has been achieved by March 2024.

(b): Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) reimburses the expenditure incurred by States, which have opted for the Decentralized Procurement (DCP) mode for the procurement/distribution of food grain to the Central Schemes' beneficiaries as per the allocation of foodgrains. U.P., being a non-DCP state, does not receive food subsidy directly from DFPD.

Funds are released to the Food Corporation of India (FCI) for the procurement, storage, and movement of food grains from Surplus States to deficit states, as well as for maintaining buffer stocks. FCI further releases funds to States including State Government of Uttar Pradesh for the quantum of food grains handed over by States to FCI under the Central Pool as part of existing continuous and dynamic process.

(c): As a part of the technology-driven Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) reforms to improve the transparency and accountability in the TPDS, ration cards/beneficiaries database have been completely digitized (100%) in all States/UTs. Further, for better tracking of foodgrains distribution, nearly all Fair Price Shops (FPSs) in the country have been automated by installing ePoS devices for the distribution of foodgrains in a transparent manner (electronically) through biometric/ Aadhaar authentication of beneficiaries.

The Direct Benefit Transfer mode is optional for States/UTs and may cover the entire State/UT or any specified areas within the State/UT, provided there is written consent from the State Government for the implementation of the Scheme. At present, no proposal to implement the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme in Auraiya is under consideration by the Government.

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