

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 212
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21ST JULY, 2026

OUTCOMES OF EXPANSION OF PMGKAY

212 # SHRI ASHOKRAO SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:

SHRI BRIJ LAL:

SHRI MITHLESH KUMAR:

SHRI KESRIDEVSINH JHALA:

SHRI MAYANKKUMAR NAYAK:

DR. DINESH SHARMA:

DR. K. LAXMAN:

DR. KAVITA PATIDAR:

SHRI BABUBHAI JESANGBHAI DESAI:

SHRI RYAGA KRISHNAIAH:

SHRI SUBHASH BARALA:

SHRI NARESH BANSAL:

SHRI LAHAR SINGH SIROYA:

SHRI BABURAM NISHAD:

SHRI S. SELVAGANABATHY:

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

(a): the outcomes of the expansion of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) since January 2025;

(b): whether the Government has conducted any assessment or evaluation of the effectiveness or impact of the scheme in providing support to vulnerable sections during economic challenges;

(c): if so, the details thereof; and

(d): the future action plan regarding this scheme, including proposed amendments, technical improvements, or convergence with other welfare schemes, and the details thereof?

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

(a): In order to remove the financial burden of the poor beneficiaries and to ensure nationwide uniformity and effective implementation of the programme for support of the poor, the Central Government distributed food grains free of cost to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households and Priority Households (PHH) beneficiaries, for a period of one year, beginning from 1st

January 2023 under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY). The period for distribution of free of cost foodgrains under PMGKAY has been extended for further five years w.e.f. 1st January, 2024.

Government of India has a commitment to the people of the nation - a dignified life by ensuring them access to food and nutritional security through availability of adequate quantity of quality food grains. The scheme also provides a unified institutional mechanism with uniform price and quantity across the country and remove difficulties of the beneficiaries specially migrants under One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC).

(b) & (c): In order to strengthen the monitoring of NFSA implementation and to provide a more in-depth, incisive and comprehensive empirical evidence on regular basis, the Department of Food and Public Distribution has engaged an agency for conducting the concurrent evaluation of the implementation of NFSA, 2013 during 2025-26, 2026-27 and 2027-28. Report submitted by the agency is available in public domain at <https://dfpd.gov.in/pmgkay-concurrent-evaluation/en>.

(d): The Government has undertaken various measures for modernization of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) which include 100% digitalization of ration card database, Aadhar seeding of beneficiaries, installation and integration of ePoS devices with electronic weighing scales, implementation of transparency portal/online grievance redressal facility, toll free number, implementation of online allocation, One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) etc.

The draft National Food Security (Amendment) Bill, 2026 envisage revision of the foodgrains entitlement of Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households from thirty-five kilograms of foodgrains per household per month to seven kilograms of foodgrains per person per month, subject to a maximum of thirty-five kilograms of foodgrains per household per month.

The draft Bill envisage to ensure equitable distribution, promote uniformity in entitlements, address variations arising from the existing household-based system, and align the allocation framework with the objectives of the NFSA.
