

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 219
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21ST JULY, 2026

**BUDGETARY ALLOCATION, IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND FUTURE ROADMAP OF
PMGKAY**

219 SHRI SADANAND MHALU SHET TANAVADE:

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

- (a): the year-wise budgetary allocation and expenditure under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) since 2022-23, including the number of beneficiaries covered across the country, State-wise;
- (b): the measurable outcomes achieved following the continuation of free foodgrain distribution from January 2025, particularly in strengthening food security and reducing financial distress among vulnerable households;
- (c): whether Government has undertaken any independent impact assessment of the scheme, if so, the key findings thereof; and
- (d): whether Government proposes to leverage digital technologies, periodic beneficiary verification and convergence with nutrition and social welfare schemes to improve targeting, minimise exclusion errors and enhance transparency?

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

(a): DFPD 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 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 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). The food subsidy released to DCP States & FCI is made as per budgetary allocation made by Ministry of Finance (MoF). No State wise funds are allocated by MoF. The details of food subsidy allocated and released by DFPD to FCI and DCP States under PMGKAY since 2022-23 onwards is at **Annexure-I**. The State wise details of food subsidy released under DCP mode for PMGKAY

since 2022-23 onwards is at **Annexure-II**. Further, Statement indicating the State/UT-wise number of beneficiaries covered PMGKAY from 2023 onwards is at **Annexure-III**.

(b): Keeping in view welfare of the beneficiaries of PMGKAY in terms of accessibility, affordability and availability of food grains for the poor and to ensure nationwide uniformity and effective implementation of the programme for support of the poor, the Government distributed food grains free of cost to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households and Priority Households (PHH) beneficiaries, beginning from 1st January 2023 under the NFSA. The period for distribution of free of cost foodgrains has been extended for five years from 1st January 2024, with an estimated financial outlay of Rs 11.80 lakh crore totally to be borne by Central Government.

(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 conducted the concurrent evaluation of PMGKAY during 2025-26. The Report of the same is available in public domain at <https://dfpd.gov.in/pmgkay-concurrent-evaluation/en>.

(d) The Government has undertaken several technology-driven reforms to improve transparency, strengthen beneficiary targeting and minimise leakages under the Public Distribution System (PDS) as below:

(A) Digital Reforms

- Ration card/beneficiary database 100% digitised in all States/UTs; 99.7% of ration cards Aadhaar-seeded, eliminating bogus/duplicate cards.
- 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).
- 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.
- One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) implemented across all 36 States/UTs, enabling portability of ration nationwide; As on date, more than 221 crore portability transactions have been recorded under ONORC.
- SMART-PDS under implementation with unified modules for RCMS, Distribution, Supply Chain and Grievance Redressal.
- Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)-based foodgrain distribution is being piloted (Gujarat, Puducherry, Chandigarh, DNH).

(B) Periodic Beneficiary Verification

- Rightful Targeting (RT) exercise using Aadhaar and data analytics has flagged 5.95 crore beneficiaries (excluding land holding cases), of which 2.35 crore ineligible beneficiaries have been deleted by States/UTs after field verification.
- Mobile number seeding SOP (v3.0) has been instituted, with OTP-based verification and mandatory annual re-verification, to keep beneficiary identity records updated.

(C) Data Convergence

- NIRMAL is being developed to enable interoperability with Government databases for automated eligibility verification and cross-scheme validation.

(D) Transparency & Grievance Redressal

- Online grievance portals and helplines are operational in all States/UTs.
- ASHA provides AI-powered multilingual beneficiary feedback and grievance analytics.
- **Mera Ration App** enables beneficiaries to access ration details, entitlements, ONORC services and grievance redressal.

Annexure-I

Details of food subsidy allocated and released by DFPD to FCI and DCP States under PMGKAY since 2022-23 onwards
(Rs in crore)

	Food Subsidy to FCI		Food subsidy to DCP States		Total food subsidy	
FY	Fund allocated	Fund released	Fund allocated	Fund released	Fund allocated	Fund released
2022-23	214696.00	200219.20	72282.50	72282.50	286978.50	272501.70
2023-24	139662.00	139661.03	72250.00	71733.36	211912.00	211394.39
2024-25	129089.40	129089.40	70410.60	70410.60	199500.00	199500.00
2025-26	153820.86	153820.86	73919.10	73919.10	227739.96	227739.96
2026-27 (as on 15.07.2026)	152429.00	49945.00	75000.00	13186.15	227429.00	63131.15

From April, 2020 to December 2022 under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), 5 Kg per month per person free of cost food grain was additionally distributed to all AAY and PHH beneficiaries.

State wise details of food subsidy released under DCP mode for PMGKAY since 2022-23 onwards.

(Rs in crore)

(Rs. In Crore)						
S. No.	FY	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27 (As on 15.07.2026)
1	Assam ^[A]	-	-	-	94.2	
2	Bihar	10966.1	6557.64	9725.4	8885.76	2503.79
3	Punjab	1202.49	2064.56	2572.72	2584.29	507.82
4	Madhya Pradesh	9471.5	16939.27	10189.04	10850.51	560.63
5	Andhra Pradesh	6635.97	6268.19	8398.98	7002.96	1386.27
6	Telangana	5242.76	5367.07	4178.27	2945.02	2763.34
7	UP ^[B]	-	-	9.09	189.07	
8	West Bengal	6580.11		8899.88	11734.92	208.52
9	Chhattisgarh	7574.81	5236.13	5695.55	5063.63	108.53
10	Uttarakhand	1212.25	724.39	1159.26	764.32	
11	Himachal Pradesh ^[C]	-	47.38	-	-	12.4
12	Tamil Nadu	8685.95	7072.53	6033.9	7763.16	2144.9
13	Odisha	7600.05	14473.68	9948.83	8517.4	2448.04
14	Karnataka	2191.75	1222.13	1281.18	2180.6	190.1
15	Gujarat	311.54	267.83	138.87	1.97	
16	Kerala	1544.89	1151.85	1062.36	900.51	294.85
17	Maharashtra	2725.75	3923.29	327.74	3650.5	2.75
18	Jharkhand	-	42.77	502.99	453.78	
19	Tripura	148.67	106.51	64.26	67.95	
20	Meghalaya	-	-	-	0.19	
21	DBT ^[D]	187.91	267.6	221.95	267.27	52.24
22	Misc. ^[E]		0.54	0.33	0.87	1.97
23	Sub-total (States+DBT) S. No. 1 to 22	72282.50	71733.36	70410.60	73919.10	13186.15

A. Assam is a DCP State for only 2 districts and has adopted DCP mode since 2023-24.

B. Uttar Pradesh has adopted non-DCP mode of procurement, no subsidy for wheat & rice is being released by DFPD. However, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh has released food subsidy for distribution of coarse grains.

C. Himachal Pradesh is a DCP State since 2022-23.

D. Under DBT scheme, w.e.f. 2015-16 subsidy is released to UTs of Chandigarh, Puducherry, and Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

E. Misc. include professional fees paid to consultants and NICS for enhancement of SCAN.

Statement indicating the State/UT-wise number of beneficiaries covered PMGKAY from 2023 onwards.
(in no. of beneficiaries)

S.No.	State Name	2023	2024	2025	2026
1	ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS	61,660	59,374	61,330	59,987
2	ANDHRA PRADESH	2,68,23,000	2,68,23,000	2,68,23,000	2,68,23,000
3	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	8,71,000	8,71,000	8,71,000	8,40,727
4	ASSAM	2,29,02,389	2,31,58,866	2,48,95,011	2,48,94,211
5	BIHAR	8,71,16,000	8,38,00,818	8,49,92,572	8,23,52,897
6	CHANDIGARH	3,23,354	3,55,674	3,41,821	3,23,277
7	CHHATTISGARH	2,00,00,746	1,99,21,016	1,98,62,836	2,00,77,000
8	Dadar & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	2,68,463	2,72,704	2,62,705	2,63,136
9	DELHI	72,78,000	72,77,742	72,77,759	72,03,498
10	GOA	4,85,754	4,79,079	4,75,988	4,31,674
11	GUJARAT	3,72,50,062	3,82,84,000	3,46,62,355	3,38,48,831
12	HARYANA	1,26,49,000	1,26,49,000	1,26,49,000	1,26,49,000
13	HIMACHAL PRADESH	36,82,000	29,16,512	28,42,349	28,43,969
14	JAMMU AND KASHMIR	66,47,484	66,53,230	67,47,183	68,29,837
15	JHARKHAND	2,64,25,000	2,63,99,419	2,63,59,428	2,63,37,662
16	KARNATAKA	4,01,93,000	4,01,93,000	4,01,93,000	4,01,93,000
17	KERALA	1,52,26,706	1,50,61,242	1,48,36,824	1,52,88,492
18	LADAKH	1,24,885	1,23,239	1,14,928	1,11,938
19	LAKSHADWEEP	22,000	22,000	22,000	20,045
20	MADHYA PRADESH	5,26,52,028	5,46,42,000	5,36,23,491	5,41,10,417
21	MAHARASHTRA	6,65,71,685	6,84,32,163	6,80,73,038	6,77,40,098
22	MANIPUR	20,52,296	20,92,507	21,10,631	21,09,004
23	MEGHALAYA	21,14,904	21,16,248	21,15,609	21,25,020
24	MIZORAM	6,96,507	6,96,396	7,06,000	7,06,000
25	NAGALAND	11,64,722	12,24,649	11,55,588	11,12,158
26	ODISHA	3,25,02,104	3,23,92,303	3,25,64,555	3,21,93,364
27	PUDUCHERRY	6,34,000	6,34,000	6,34,000	6,34,000
28	PUNJAB	1,41,51,000	1,41,51,000	1,41,51,000	1,41,51,000
29	RAJASTHAN	4,37,84,306	4,36,96,914	4,37,41,827	4,38,74,906
30	SIKKIM	3,81,502	3,83,502	3,72,205	3,76,889
31	TAMIL NADU	3,64,70,000	3,60,35,078	3,64,65,678	3,62,27,509
32	TELANGANA	1,91,70,000	1,91,70,000	1,91,70,000	1,91,58,121
33	TRIPURA	24,42,730	24,35,165	23,35,070	23,37,900
34	UTTARAKHAND	60,73,150	60,79,177	60,23,240	60,06,453
35	UTTAR PRADESH	15,04,20,384	14,87,91,087	14,75,12,166	14,67,02,156
36	WEST BENGAL	5,99,62,436	6,01,84,000	5,98,50,422	6,00,05,245
	Total	79,95,94,257	79,84,77,104	79,48,95,609	79,09,62,421