

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2605
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH AUGUST, 2026

FOODGRAIN DISTRIBUTION IN TAMIL NADU UNDER NFSA

2605 SHRI R. DHARMAR:

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

- (a) the details of foodgrains procured, allocated and distributed under the National Food Security Act, 2013 during the last three years in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) the number of beneficiaries covered under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana and the quantity of foodgrains supplied thereunder;
- (c) the steps taken to strengthen storage, transportation and digitisation of the Public Distribution System;
- (d) the measures adopted to prevent leakages and ensure transparency in ration delivery; and
- (e) the initiatives undertaken to promote consumer protection, grievance redressal and awareness among consumers across the country?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)

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- (a): The details of foodgrains procured, allocated and distributed under the National Food Security Act, 2013 during the last three years in Tamil Nadu are placed at **Annexure-I**.
 - (b): The number of beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) is 79.09 crore. The details of quantity of foodgrains (Rice and Wheat) allocated to all States/UTs under PMGKAY/NFSA for the last three financial years are placed at **Annexure-II**.
 - (c) & (d) Effective measures being undertaken to increase storage facilities for developing efficient storage system in the country are as under:

(i) Construction of conventional godowns has been undertaken in 24 States by attracting private investment under Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme. Total capacity sanctioned for godowns as on 01.07.2026 is 150.97 LMT.

(ii) Under PEG Scheme II, in order to create covered capacity in wheat procuring States specially Punjab and Haryana, new storage capacity was sanctioned in Punjab and Haryana to phase out Open Storage i.e. 60 LMT in Punjab and 30 LMT in Haryana.

(iii) Central Sector Scheme (CSS) "Storage & Godown" Scheme is implemented for construction of godowns in the North Eastern States along with Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Jammu & Kashmir and Jharkhand. During 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17), a capacity of 1,17,680 MT in North Eastern (NE) States and 20,000 MT in other than NE States has been completed by FCI. This scheme was extended from 01.04.2017 to 31.03.2025. During 01.04.2017 to 01.07.2026, a capacity of 123970 MT at 20 locations has been completed by Food Corporation of India (FCI).

Further, in order to keep the storage infrastructure robust and updated, FCI is taking various steps for Modernization as under:

(i) Construction of SILOs under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode: Steel Silo storage with bulk-handling facility is highly mechanized and modernized way for storing food grains in bulk. It ensures better preservation of food grains and enhances its shelf life. In order to upgrade and modernize the storage facilities, Government of India has approved construction of Silos across the country under PPP mode. Accordingly, silos at 76 locations with capacity 39.00 LMT have been completed.

(ii) The SMART Warehouse pilot is implemented by WFP in collaboration with DFPD, uses IoT technology in government warehouses to prevent foodgrain losses. Monitoring parameters include temperature, humidity, gas levels, airflow, and events such as unauthorized access, rodent, and insect activity.

(iii) Depot Darpan portal has also been introduced in the step of modernization and digitalization of storage facilities in FCI. The Portal facilitates self-assessment, rating and grading of FCI depots (owned and hired).

FCI, under the supervision of Department of Food & Public Distribution, has implemented GPS enabled live tracking solution viz. Vehicle Location Tracking System (VLTS), a robust monitoring mechanism for transportation of food grains using Road Transport Contractors (RTCs) from dispatching depot till receiving depot. This will enable e-surveillance of food grains in-transit (Rail as well as Road) and also curb the possibilities of pilferage of foodgrains enroute. State/UT Governments are also in the process of implementing VLTS for live tracking of end to end intra-state movement of food grains under the public distribution system.

Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) under National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the States/ Union Territories Governments. Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation and transportation of foodgrains upto the designated depots of FCI. The operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/ UTs, identification of eligible beneficiaries, issuance of ration cards to them, distribution of foodgrains to eligible beneficiaries under TPDS, issuance of license to Fair Price Shop dealers, supervision over and monitoring of functioning of FPSs etc. rest with the concerned State/ UT Governments.

The steps taken by the Government to strengthen end-to-end computerisation, digital monitoring and uninterrupted delivery of foodgrains to eligible beneficiaries and digitisation of PDS system are as follows:

- (i) Ration cards/beneficiary database is 100% digitised in all States/UTs; eliminating ineligible/duplicate cards.
- (ii) 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).
- (iii) 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.
- (iv) 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.
- (v) 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 crore flagged beneficiaries (excluding landholding cases) and 2.35 crore deleted beneficiaries.

(vi) 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.

(vii) NIRMAL & SAKSHAM: New initiatives under the SARTHAK PDS Umbrella Scheme (2026–31) aimed at strengthening data architecture/analytics (NIRMAL) and real-time data integration (including VLTS) from Procurement of food grains to Distribution to the beneficiaries (Saksham).

(e): The Department of Consumer Affairs has strengthened the consumer protection framework through the enactment of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, to effectively address emerging challenges arising from globalization, technological advancements and e-commerce. The salient features of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 are given below:

(i) Establishment of a Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA).

(ii) Simplification of the adjudication process in the Consumer Commissions.

(iii) Penal provisions for manufacture/sale of adulterated products/spurious goods.

(iv) Provision for making rules for prevention of unfair trade practice in e-commerce and direct selling.

(v) Launched the e-Jagriti portal on 1st January, 2025. The portal is designed to provide a convenient, transparent and efficient means for consumers to seek redressal by enabling online complaint filing, digital submission of documents, online payment of fees and also supports virtual courtrooms, enabling the hearing of cases remotely and ensuring faster disposal while reducing dependency on physical infrastructure.

(vi) The Department of Consumer Affairs is undertaking extensive consumer awareness initiatives under the flagship "Jago Grahak Jago" campaign on Pan-India basis to educate consumers about their rights and protect them from unfair trade practices.

(vii) Consumer awareness messages are disseminated through multimedia platforms, including All India Radio, NFDC, CBC, IRCTC, MyGov and official social media handles. The Department has conducted Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) campaign as well as SMS campaigns in English, Hindi and nine regional languages, with focused outreach in North-Eastern States and SC/ST-dominated areas, besides providing grant-in-aid to States/UTs for localized awareness programmes.

(viii) The Department of Consumer Affairs regularly disseminates awareness information through digital creatives, infographics, and audio-visual content on social media handles.

Annexure-I: Reply to Part (a) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2605 for answer on 11.08.2026

The details of foodgrains procured during the last three years in Tamil Nadu:

KMS	Paddy (in LMT)
2022-23	33.84
2023-24	34.96
2024-25	47.99

The details of foodgrains allocated during the last three years in Tamil Nadu:

Financial Year	Rice (in LMT)
2023-24	25.70
2024-25	25.73
2025-26	25.73

The details of food grain distributed under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 during the last three years (in MT) in Tamil Nadu are as follows:

Year	Rice (in LMT)
2023	23.71
2024	23.39
2025	23.45

Annexure-II: Reply to Part (b) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2605 for answer on 11.08.2026

The details of quantity of foodgrains (Rice and Wheat) allocated to all States/UTs under PMGKAY/NFSA for the last three financial years are given below:

Financial Year	Quantity of foodgrains (in LMT)
2023-24	527.37
2024-25	528.74
2025-26	527.43
