

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1236  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2022**

**OUTDATED POPULATION DATA IN PDS**

**1236. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI**

**Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether it is true that under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 67% of the total population, using the rural-urban population ratio in 2011, is meant to be covered through the Public Distribution Scheme (PDS);**
- (b) if so, whether the Government is aware that due to the usage of outdated population data from 2011, many intended beneficiaries are being left out of the scheme;**
- (c) whether the Government has any plans to plug the data gaps of the PDS so that all intended beneficiaries can be reached; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the manner in which the Government plans to redress the significant number of people being excluded from PDS before the new Census data is made available?**

**A N S W E R  
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)**

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**(a) to (d): The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) provides for coverage upto 75% of rural population and upto 50% of urban population for receiving highly subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), thus covering about two-thirds of the total population which at Census 2011 comes to 81.35 crore. Coverage under the Act is substantially high to ensure that all the vulnerable and needy sections of the society get its benefit. Further, against the intended coverage of 81.35 crore, the States/UTs have identified only 80.04 crore beneficiaries. Still, there is a scope of identification of 1.31 crore more beneficiaries under the NFSA.**

**States/ Union Territories have also been advised to update their beneficiary database from time to time to ensure rightful targeting of beneficiaries and inclusion of deserving persons within the ceiling determined under the NFSA for availing benefits under the Act.**

**Section 9 of the Act provides that the total number of persons to be covered in rural and urban areas of the State shall be calculated on the basis of the population estimates as per the Census of which the relevant figures have been published. As per NITI Aayog suggestion, any revision in coverage shall be possible only after the relevant data of next population Census is published.**

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