

ORIGINAL IN HINDI

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.419
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29ND MARCH, 2023

STARVATION DEATHS

†*419. SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:

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

- (a) whether the country is still facing the problem of starvation deaths;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise;
- (c) the details of the corrective measures being taken or likely to be taken by the Government to prevent the said problem in various parts of the country, State-wise; and
- (d) the details of the works done by the Government in this direction so far?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY, CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD
& PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND TEXTILES
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.419 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 29.03.2023 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) to (d): No Sir. Not a single State Government/Union Territory Administration has reported any incident of death due to starvation.

The Central Government, to remove the financial burden of the poor beneficiaries and to ensure nationwide uniformity and effective implementation of National Food Security Act (NFSA), has decided to provide foodgrains free of cost under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) to AAY households and PHH beneficiaries as eligible under NFSA for a period of one year beginning from 1st Jan, 2023 by subsuming two current food subsidy schemes of the Department of Food and Public Distribution- a) Food Subsidy to FCI for NFSA, and b) Food Subsidy for decentralized procurement states, dealing with procurement, allocation and delivery of free foodgrains to the states under NFSA.

The Government of India accords high priority to the issue of adequate foodgrains to the deserving and needy beneficiaries, which are provided free of charge and distributed through State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The NFSA is operational in a seamless manner across all States/Union Territories. The coverage under the Act is substantially high to ensure that all the vulnerable and needy sections of the society get its benefit.

With the specific purpose of ameliorating the hardships faced by the poor and needy due to economic disruptions caused by the COVID-19 outbreak in the country, the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) had been launched. The allocation of free foodgrains, under PMGKAY was in addition to normal allocation done under the NFSA, 2013. A total quantity of approx. 1118 LMT foodgrains had been allocated during the period of 28 months from April, 2020 to December, 2022.

The scheme of End-to-End Computerization of the PDS has ensured rightful targeting of nearly 80 Crore beneficiaries all over the country. Leveraging the strong foundation of End-to-End Computerization, FPS automation, the Department is implementing One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) plan for nation-wide portability of ration cards under NFSA. The national portability of ration cards under ONORC plan has been seamlessly enabled in all 36 States/UTs covering around all eligible beneficiaries under the NFSA.
