

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3453
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22ND MARCH, 2023**

INCREASE IN COVERAGE OF PDS

3453. SHRI ABHISHEK BANERJEE:

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

be pleased to state the details of the steps that are being taken to increase the coverage of PDS in the light of the fact that the last census was more than a decade ago?

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

The National Food Security Act, 2013 which provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population, which at Census 2011 comes to 81.35 crore persons.

At present, against the intended coverage of 81.35 crore, 80.11 crore beneficiaries are identified by the States/UTs under the Act. Still, there is scope for identification of 1.24 crore additional beneficiaries under the Act by the State Governments.

Section 9 of the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) provides that the percentage coverage under the Targeted Public Distribution System in rural and urban areas for each State shall be determined by the Central Government and the total number of persons to be covered in the State shall be calculated on the basis of the population estimates as per the census of which the relevant figures have been published.
