

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3523
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22ND MARCH, 2023**

CUT IN FOODGRAINS SUBSIDY

**3523. SHRI BALUBHAU ALIAS SURESH NARAYAN DHANORKAR:
SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI:
SHRI T.N. PRATHAPAN:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has a substantial reason for opposing the Supreme Court's order to expand the beneficiaries under the food security law, given that number of people receiving the law's benefits is based on the now-outdated 2011 census, leaving at least 10 crore Indians excluded from the programme;
- (b) if so, the facts in this regard;
- (c) the reasons for a cut of 31% in foodgrain subsidy for the poor from Rs. 2,87,194.05 crore in previous year's BE to Rs. 1,97,350 crore for FY 2023-24;
- (d) whether the Food Corporation of India (FCI) is forced to opt for off-budget borrowings in order to meet its requirement for current year's procurement; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) & (b): In suo-motu Writ Petition (Civil) No 6 of 2020 regarding Problems and Miseries of Migrant Labourers, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India passed some directions vide its order dated 29.06.2021. Hon'ble Court inter-alia gave the directions that "The Central Government may undertake exercise under Section 9 of the National Food Security Act, 2013 to re-determine the total number of persons to be covered under the Rural and Urban areas of the State."

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. As at the time of implementation of NFSA, the latest published figures of Census pertained to the year 2011, the same was used to determine the coverage of all States/Union Territories (UTs).

The matter was taken up with the Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India (RGCCI), NITI Aayog and Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI). Any action on revision of NFSA beneficiaries coverage can be taken once data from Household Consumption Expenditure Survey becomes available.

(c) to (e): In the wake of Covid-19 outbreak in the country in March 2020, the Department in pursuant to the announcement of the pro-poor “Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package” by the Government of India, had started the distributeon of ‘additional’ and ‘free of cost’ foodgrains to around 80 crore NFSA beneficiaries in the country under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana to ameliorate the food security hardships faced by the poor and needy due to unprecedented outbreak of the pandemic lockdowns and thus the economic disruptions caused across the country.

An amount of Rs.197000 crore has been allocated for the financial year 2023-24 as the effect of Covid-19 pandemic is almost over.
