

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4821
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29TH MARCH, 2023**

LOWERING BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR FOOD IN PDS

4821. SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE:

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 slashed the budgetary allocation for food and public distribution to Rs. 2,05,513 crore which is over 30 per cent against the revised estimate of Rs. 2,96,303 crore for 2022-23, if so, the reasons therefor;**
- (b) whether it is also a fact that allocation for National Food Security Act is about Rs. 2 lakh crore as compared to Rs 2.8 lakh crore allocated last year; and**
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor?**

A N S W E R

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)**

(a) to (c): In the wake of COVID-19 outbreak in the country in March 2020, the Department of Food and Public Distribution had started the distribution of 'additional' and 'free-of-cost' foodgrains (Rice/Wheat) to around 80 crore Priority Household (PHH) and Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) beneficiaries in the country under PMGKAY to ameliorate the food security hardships faced by the poor and needy due to unprecedented outbreak of the pandemic and lockdowns. Under PMGKAY, about 1,118 LMT foodgrains have been allocated with an earmarked total financial outlay of approximately Rs. 3.91 lakh crore from Phase-I to Phase-VII of the scheme. Now the Central Government is distributing free foodgrains to all NFSA beneficiaries, as per their entitlement, under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) from 1st Jan, 2023.

A total budget of Rs. 2,04,424.60 crore in BE 2023-24 has been allocated as compared to Rs. 2,13,053.09 crore in BE 2022-23 for National Food Security Act. Government of India has been providing sufficient funds to meet the requirement of food subsidy of the Department and funds allocated in BE for FY 2023-24 are sufficient.
