

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.287
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH AUGUST, 2023**

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

***287. SHRI KRIPANATH MALLAH:**

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

- (a) the salient features of the Public Distribution System (PDS);**
- (b) the details of the amount sanctioned, allocated and utilized in the last three years in Assam under this scheme;**
- (c) the details of the target set and achievements made so far under the schedule along with its response within the country;**
- (d) whether the Government is planning to reform the PDS and storage sector within the country; and**
- (e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?**

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 287 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 09.08.2023 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a): Public Distribution System (PDS) is implemented under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 in all States/UTs. The Act provides coverage upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population for receiving foodgrains (rice, wheat & coarsegrains). Under the Act eligible families comprise of Priority Households (PHH) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. The Priority Households are entitled to receive 5 kg of foodgrains per person per month and the families covered under the AAY receive 35 kg of foodgrains per month per family. Under the TPDS, foodgrains were provided at subsidized prices upto December, 2022. However, w.e.f. 1st January, 2023, foodgrains under the Act are being distributed to eligible beneficiaries free of cost for one year i.e. upto 31.12.2023 under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana.

NFSA is operated under the joint responsibilities of the Central and State/UT Governments. Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation and transportation of foodgrains upto the designated depots of the Food Corporation of India (FCI). The operational responsibilities for identification of eligible beneficiaries/families, issuance of ration cards to them, distribution of foodgrains to eligible beneficiaries and supervision and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs), etc. rests with the concerned State/UT Government.

(b): The Government of India allocates subsidized foodgrains to States/UTs for monthly distribution to all NFSA ration card holders. The details of foodgrains allocated to Assam during last three years as well as current year, are as under:

(in Thousand Tons)

Type of Foodgrain	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24(Upto June, 2023)	
	Allocation	Offtake	Allocation	Offtake	Allocation	Offtake	Allocation	Offtake
Rice	1624.94	1484.68	1628.00	1549.30	1628.93	1621.10	407.23	372.60
Wheat	69.38	68.67	66.72	67.35	66.19	66.62	16.54	16.60

Further, the details of fund released to Assam towards expenditure incurred on intra-state transportation and FPS dealers margin for distribution of foodgrains under various schemes such as NFSA, Pradhan Mantri Garib

Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) and Atma Nirbhar Bharat Scheme (ANBS), during last three years as well as current year, are as under:

(In Crore)

Year	Amount released as on 04.07.2023
2020-21	368.08
2021-22	545.75
2022-23	826.91
2023-24	238.24

(c): Allocation of foodgrains to States/UTs under the NFSA, 2013 is made on the basis of State/UT-wise coverage of population determined by the erstwhile Planning Commission (now NITI Aayog) based on the data of Large Sample Surveys on Household Consumer Expenditure published by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) in 2011-12, identification of beneficiaries by States/UTs within the coverage and foodgrains entitlement prescribed under the Act. The Act further provides that if on the above basis, annual foodgrains allocation to any State/UT is lower than the average annual offtake during 2010-11 to 2012-13 under erstwhile normal Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), the same shall be protected and the State shall be allocated foodgrains as specified in Schedule IV. As per Schedule-IV of the National Food Security Act, 2013, the States/UTs are entitled to 549.26 LMT of foodgrains per annum. At present, the States/UTs are being allocated 46.07 LMTs of foodgrains per month (552.80 LMT per annum). Inclusion/exclusion of beneficiaries under the Act is a continuous process.

(d) & (e): Under PDS reforms, ration cards/beneficiaries database have been completely digitized in all States/UTs, transparency portal and online grievance redressal facility/Toll-free number have been implemented in all States/UTs, online allocation has been implemented in all States/UTs (except UTs of Chandigarh and Puducherry which have adopted DBT Cash Transfer scheme) and supply chain has been computerized in 31 States/UTs. Presently, 100% ration cards are seeded with Aadhaar number at national level and almost all FPSs have been automated by installation of ePoS devices for the distribution of foodgrains in a transparent manner (electronically) through biometric /Aadhaar authentication of NFSA beneficiaries. One Nation One Ration Card facility has also been enabled in all States/UTs which empowers all NFSA beneficiaries to seamlessly access their food security entitlements through 'portability' from any FPS of their choice in the country. The Govt of India, States/UTs and other concerned stakeholders are continuously making efforts to improve efficiency and transparency of PDS operations.

As part of the technology driven TPDS reforms under ONORC plan, the Govt of India has also launched a mobile app namely 'MERA RATION'. The app provides the beneficiaries to easily know their entitlement details, recent transactions details and check Aadhaar seeding status.

Food Corporation of India has undertaken taken various initiatives to reform storage sector such as under:

- (i) Phasing out of Covered and Plinth (CAP) Storage**
- (ii) Third party assessment of warehouses by FCI from Quality Council of India**
- (iii) Mechanization of Warehouse operations**
- (iv) Construction of SILO's under PPP Mode**
- (v) Warehousing Development Regulatory Authority (WDRA) Certification**
- (vi) Use of Artificial Intelligence for grain analysis**
