

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1123
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26TH JULY, 2023**

CUT IN SUBSIDY TO FCI

1123. 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 it is a fact that Government has reduced over 31 percent overall budget against 2022-23 for ensuring food security through procurement, storage, and distribution of food grains in 2023-24;**
- (b) if so, the reasons behind therein;**
- (c) whether it is also a fact that in the budget for 2023-24, the subsidy allocated to the FCI and States is slashed over 36% and 17% as compared to the revised estimate of 2022-23 thereof; and**
- (d) if so, the proposal of the Government in mandating coverage of PDS up to 75% of the population in rural areas and 50% in urban areas?**

**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 (d): 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 Antyodaya 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 till 31.12.2022. 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.

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A total budget of Rs.2,04,424.60 crore (Rs.1,37,207.00 crore as Food subsidy to FCI and Rs.59,793.00 crore as Food subsidy to DCP states) in BE 2023-24 has been allocated as compared to Rs.2,13,053.09 crore (Rs.1,45,919.90 crore as Food subsidy to FCI and Rs.60,561.19 crore as Food subsidy to DCP states) in BE 2022-23 for National Food Security Act. However, at RE 2022-23 stage total budget for National Food Security Act had been revised to Rs.2,93,550.53 crore (Rs.2,14,696.00 crore as Food subsidy to FCI and Rs.72,282.50 crore as Food subsidy to DCP states). Government of India has been providing sufficient funds to meet the requirement of food subsidy.
