

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2295
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2ND AUGUST, 2023**

MONITORING OF PMGKAY

2295. SHRI T.R. BAALU:

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 agrees with the view that the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) needs to be monitored with the help of the community to ensure sustainable nutrition security;**
- (b) if so, the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and**
- (c) if not, 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): Government enacted the National Food Security Act, 2013 which provides food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity. The Act provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural and upto 50% of the urban population, i.e. about two-thirds of the total population of the country, for receiving foodgrains i.e. rice/ wheat/ coarsegrains at prices specified in Schedule-I of the Act. In addition to this, the Act provides that pregnant women and lactating mothers and children in the age group of 6 months to 14 years are entitled to meals as per prescribed nutritional norms under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and PM-POSHAN schemes. Higher nutritional norms are prescribed for malnourished children upto 6 years of age.

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The Central Government, in order to remove the financial burden of the poor beneficiaries and to ensure nationwide uniformity and effective implementation of the Act, is providing food grains free of cost to NFSA beneficiaries i.e. Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households and Priority Households (PHH) beneficiaries, for a period of one year beginning from 1st January 2023 under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY).

The Act provides for periodic social audits on the functioning of fair price shops, Targeted Public Distribution System and other welfare schemes, through local authority, or any other authority or body, as may be authorized by the State Government. The Central Government may also conduct or cause to be conducted social audit through independent agencies having experience in conduct of such audits. The Act defines "social audit" as the process in which people collectively monitor and evaluate the planning and implementation of a programme or scheme. Thus, the Act contains necessary provisions for monitoring of schemes by the people or community.
