

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3154
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.08.2023**

FOOD FOR POOR AND DESTITUTE

3154. SHRI THIRUMAAVALAVAN THOL:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Supreme court urged the Government to frame a National level scheme to provide cooked food to the poor and the destitute at a subsidised rate;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has framed any National level scheme to provide cooked food to the poor and destitute at subsidised rate or at a cheaper rate; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI A. NARAYANASWAMY)**

(a) & (b): A Writ Petition (c) No. 1103/2019 titled Anun Dhawan & Ors Vs Union of India & Ors is pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. Hon'ble Court has passed several interim orders in the matter. Counter affidavit has been filed in the matter in consultation with several union Ministries/ Departments and all States/UTs. Final judgment in the matter is yet to come and hence the matter is presently sub-judice.

(c) to (d): Government of India is implementing the following schemes to provide free food/food grains to poor and destitute:

The Annapurna Scheme: Annapurna scheme was launched on 1st April 2000 and provides 10 kg of wheat or rice free of cost to eligible old-age persons from BPL families not covered under old age pension scheme. The upper limit of beneficiaries is 8.32 lakh. The State-wise ceiling under the scheme is at **Annexure**.

2. However, with the implementation of National Food Security Act (NFSA) from the year 2013, beneficiaries are able to purchase 5 kg per eligible person per month of cereals at a nominal price of Rs.1-3 per kg. Hence, providing 10 kg of food grains to beneficiaries of Annapurna scheme is no longer attractive. As a result, the lifting of food grains under the Annapurna scheme has shown a declining trend since 2016-17 and has been nil since 2019-20

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY): Centre launched a new integrated food security scheme from 1 January 2023 as “Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY)”. The New scheme PMGKAY has started from 1st January 2023, benefitting more than 80 crore poor and poorest of poor people.

The Central Government will spend more than Rs 2 lakh crore in 2023 as food subsidy under NFSA and other welfare schemes, to remove the financial burden of the poor and the poorest of the poor.

Shakti Sadan Scheme: Under the newly approved Mission Shakti SwadharGreh - for Women in difficult circumstances and Ujjawala Home - for prevention of trafficking have been merged and renamed as Shakti Sadan which is an Integrated Relief and Rehabilitation Home for the women in distress situations and difficult circumstances. The residents of Shakti Sadan are provided shelter, food, health, other requirements, etc. under the scheme.

This is a centrally Sponsored Scheme with funding ratio of 60:40 between the Central and the State Governments and UTs with legislature except Northeast & Special Category States where funding ratio is 90:10. For UTs without legislature, 100% funding to be provided by the Central Government. The implementation of the Scheme rests with the States/UTs.

Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0 is being implemented for improving nutrition indicators in the country. Under this Mission, Anganwadi Services Scheme, POSHAN Abhiyaan and Scheme for Adolescent Girls has been reorganized into 3 primary verticals: (i) Nutrition Support for POSHAN and for Adolescent Girls (ii) Early Childhood Care and Education [3-6 years] and (iii) Anganwadi Infrastructure including modern, upgraded Saksham Anganwadis.

State-UT-wise ceiling of beneficiaries under Annapurna Scheme

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Ceiling of beneficiaries
1	Andhra Pradesh	54354
2	Bihar	166600
3	Chhattisgarh	24196
4	Goa	420
5	Gujarat	35377
6	Haryana	-
7	Himachal Pradesh	2644
8	Jharkhand	54939
9	Karnataka	-
10	Kerala	36904
11	Madhya Pradesh	
12	Maharashtra	108000
13	Odisha	64800
14	Punjab	-
15	Rajasthan	47500
16	Tamil Nadu	66388
17	Telangana	38846
18	Uttar Pradesh	-
19	Uttarakhand	-
20	West Bengal	65068
NE States		
21	Arunachal Pradesh	1840
22	Assam	25308
23	Manipur	3320
24	Meghalaya	3580
25	Mizoram	1000
26	Nagaland	2600
27	Sikkim	960
28	Tripura	5740
Union Territories		-
29	A&N Islands	560
30	Chandigarh	440
31	D&N Haveli and D&D	358
32	NCT Delhi	8040
33	J&K	10220
34	Ladakh	-
35	Lakshadweep	60
36	Puducherry	1580
	TOTAL	831642
