

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1821  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2023**

**DISTRIBUTION OF FREE RATION ACROSS THE COUNTRY**

**1821. SHRI P.C. MOHAN:**

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

- (a) the number out of 80 crore ration cardholders who received free ration during and after the COVID19 pandemic, State/UT-wise;**
- (b) the details of funds reserved and spent for the same, State/UT-wise;**
- (c) whether the Government intends to extend the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) under which the Government is providing free foodgrains to all ration cardholders;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise along with the details of funds reserved for the same;**
- (e) whether the Government is aware that most of the ration cardholders across the country are unaware that the Government is providing them the free foodgrains; and**
- (f) the details of steps taken by the Government to inform the public on extending the distribution of free foodgrains to all ration cardholders across the country?**

**A N S W E R**

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

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**(a) to (d):** In view of the pro-poor initiative announced by the Government of India to ameliorate the hardship faced by the poor due to economic disruption caused by COVID-19 pandemic, this Department had implemented Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY) in seven (7) phases from April 2020 to December 2022. This Department had allocated additional free-of-cost foodgrains to all States/UTs for distribution to around 80 Crore National Food Security Act (NFSA) beneficiaries in the country.

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Further, post pandemic, in order to remove the financial burden of the poor beneficiaries and to ensure nationwide uniformity and effective implementation of the National Food Security Act (2013), the Central Government decided to provide food grains free of cost to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households as well as Priority Households (PHH) beneficiaries. Thus under this scheme free foodgrain is being distributed through Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) from 1st January 2023 onwards. The total number of beneficiaries Covered under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY) is attached as Annexure-I.

The Phase wise financial outlay under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY) is at below:

| <b>PMGKAY</b>                     | <b>Duration</b>               | <b>Financial Outlay<br/>(Rs. In Cr.)</b> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Phase - I<br/>(3 months)</b>   | <b>April'20 -<br/>June'20</b> | <b>Rs. 44,834</b>                        |
| <b>Phase - II (5 months)</b>      | <b>July'20-<br/>Nov.'20</b>   | <b>Rs. 68,351</b>                        |
| <b>Phase - III (2<br/>months)</b> | <b>May'21-<br/>June'21</b>    | <b>Rs. 26,602</b>                        |
| <b>Phase - IV<br/>(5 months)</b>  | <b>July'21-<br/>Nov.'21</b>   | <b>Rs. 67,266</b>                        |
| <b>Phase - V (4 months)</b>       | <b>Dec'21-<br/>Mar.'22</b>    | <b>Rs. 53,344</b>                        |
| <b>Phase-VI (6 months)</b>        | <b>April'22-<br/>Sep'22</b>   | <b>Rs. 85,838</b>                        |
| <b>Phase-VII (3 months)</b>       | <b>Oct'22 -<br/>Dec'22</b>    | <b>Rs. 44,763</b>                        |
| <b>Total (28 months)</b>          |                               | <b>Rs. 3.91 Lakh Cr.</b>                 |

Further, the details of funds released by this Department to DCP States under PMGKAY during COVID-19 Pandemic are attached as Annexure-II.

Keeping in view the welfare of beneficiaries of PMGKAY in terms of accessibility, affordability and availability of food grains for the poor and to maintain uniformity across the States, the Government has decided to continue to provide free food grains to about 81.35 Crore beneficiaries under the PMGKAY for a period of five years with effect from 1st January, 2024, with an estimated financial outlay of Rs. 11.80 lakh Crore totally to be borne by Central Government.

Further, it is stated that Ministry of Finance has allocated Rs.1,97,000 Crore at Budget Estimate (BE) stage for the financial year 2023-24 for distribution of food grains under PMGKAY. It is also stated that allocation of funds is not made State-wise. Funds for the subsequent year under PMGKAY will be allocated in due course of time.

(e) & (f) No such incidence has been reported yet, however, the Department has taken following initiatives for generating awareness and inform the public on extending the distribution of free foodgrains to all ration cardholders across the country.

- i. Pan-India awareness campaigns of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) and One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) on TV Channels, FM Channels and social media have been undertaken.
- ii. Inter-department collaboration for publicity amplification of PMGKAY for information dissemination on social media has been undertaken.
- iii. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) has installed PMGKAY banners/hoardings at 1000 fuel retail outlets.
- iv. More than 6 Crore SMSs have been delivered on mobile numbers of beneficiaries and FPS dealers across States/UTs.
- v. 15 workshops for awareness generation of ONORC have been conducted across states/UTs in India

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**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a)to(d) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1821 FOR ANSWER ON 13.12.2023 IN THE LOK SABHA.**

| Statement indicating State-Wise number of NFSA Beneficiaries Covered under National Food Security Act, 2013 - As on 30.11.2023 |                   |   |
|--|-------------------|---|
| S. No.   | States/UTs        | Present Beneficiaries Coverage<br>(In lakh) |
| 1  | Andhra Pradesh    | 268.22                                      |
| 2  | Arunachal Pradesh | 8.40  |
| 3  | Assam             | 251.17                                      |
| 4  | Bihar             | 871.16                                      |
| 5  | Chhattisgarh      | 200.77                                      |
| 6  | Delhi             | 72.78                                       |
| 7  | Goa               | 5.32  |
| 8  | Gujarat           | 351.60                                      |
| 9  | Haryana           | 126.49                                      |
| 10   | Himachal Pradesh  | 28.64                                       |
| 11   | Jharkhand         | 264.19                                      |
| 12   | Karnataka         | 401.93                                      |
| 13   | Kerala            | 154.80                                      |
| 14   | Madhya Pradesh    | 534.79                                      |
| 15   | Maharashtra       | 700.17                                      |
| 16   | Manipur           | 20.08                                       |
| 17   | Meghalaya         | 21.46                                       |
| 18   | Mizoram           | 6.83  |
| 19   | Nagaland          | 14.05                                       |
| 20   | Odisha            | 325.03                                      |
| 21   | Punjab            | 141.51                                      |
| 22   | Rajasthan         | 440.01                                      |
| 23   | Sikkim            | 3.81  |
| 24   | Tamil Nadu        | 364.12                                      |
| 25   | Telangana         | 191.62                                      |
| 26   | Tripura           | 24.43                                       |
| 27   | Uttar Pradesh     | 1503.77                                     |
| 28   | Uttarakhand       | 61.94                                       |
| 29   | West Bengal       | 601.84                                      |
| 30   | A&N               | 0.61  |
| 31   | DNH&DD            | 2.69  |
| 32   | Lakshadweep       | 0.22  |
| 33   | Chandigarh (DBT)  | 2.99  |
| 34   | Puducherry (DBT)  | 6.34  |
| 35   | J&K               | 72.41                                       |
| 36   | Ladakh            | 1.44  |
| <b>Total</b>   |                   | <b>8047.64</b>                              |

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**Annexure-II****ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a)to(d) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1821 FOR ANSWER ON 13.12.2023 IN THE LOK SABHA.****Details of funds released by DFPD to DCP States under PMGKAY during COVID-19 Pandemic**

(Rs. in Crores)

| S.N. | Name of the State | PMGKAY 2020-21 | PMGKAY 2021-22 | PMGKAY 2022-23 | Total fund released under PMGKAY for phase-I to VII |
|------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---|
| 1    | Andhra Pradesh    | 2764.05        | 3248.92        | 1027.02        | 7039.99   |
| 2    | Bihar             | 737.37         | 2773.64        | 5443.15        | 8954.16   |
| 3    | Chhattisgarh      | 2367.03        | 2438.53        | 2923.43        | 7728.99   |
| 4    | Gujarat           | -              | 7.13           | 22.34          | 29.47   |
| 5    | Madhya Pradesh    | 3202.55        | 5084.52        | 5181.35        | 13468.42  |
| 6    | Maharashtra       | 981.60         | 870.45         | 1298.51        | 3150.56   |
| 7    | Odisha            | 2964.20        | 2670.98        | 2422.25        | 8057.43   |
| 8    | Punjab            | 63.06          | -              | -              | 63.06   |
| 9    | Telangana         | 2357.64        | 1296.51        | 2551.87        | 6206.02   |
| 10   | Uttarakhand       | 492.97         | 301.29         | 434.92         | 1229.18   |
| 11   | Tamil Nadu        | -              | -              | 139.07         | 139.07  |
| 12   | West Bengal       | -              | -              | 1695.28        | 1695.28   |
|      | Total             | 15930.47       | 18691.97       | 23139.19       | 57761.63  |

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