

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.703
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7TH FEBRUARY, 2024**

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM COVERAGE

703. DR. SANJEEV KUMAR SINGARI

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 is aware that the use of 2011 population figures from the last census to calculate State/UT-wise Public Distribution System (PDS) coverage is causing many people to be excluded from the reach of the system;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government plans to initiate updation of this data using projected population figures and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is also aware that the lack of new data is resulting in the inability of State Government, to issue more ration cards in order to avoid exclusion errors in PDS and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government plans to provide any assistance to the State Governments in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

**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 (e): Section 9 of the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) provides that the percentage coverage under the Targeted Public Distribution System in rural and urban areas for each State shall be determined by the Central Government and the total number of persons to be covered in the State shall be calculated on the basis of the population estimates as per the census of which the relevant figures have been published. At the time of implementation of NFSA, the latest published figures of Census pertaining to the year 2011 was used to determine the coverage of all States/Union Territories (UTs).

The National Food Security Act, 2013 provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population, which at Census 2011 comes to 81.35 crore persons.

At present, against the intended coverage of 81.35 crore, 80.49 crore beneficiaries are identified by the States/UTs under the Act. The Coverage under the Act is sufficiently high to ensure that all the vulnerable and needy sections of the society get its benefit.
