

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3815
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17TH MARCH, 2020**

FOOD SUBSIDY BILL

3815. SHRI SISIR KUMAR ADHIKARI:

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 the Government has massively reduced the food subsidy bill from Rs. 1.84 lakh crore to Rs. 1.15 lakh crore in the 2020-21 budget as compared to the last budget;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the proposal of the Government to fight against malnutrition and provide 'Food For All' in the country?

A N S W E R

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD &
PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO)**

(a) & (b): As per budgetary allocation provided by Ministry of Finance, Department of Food & Public Distribution releases food subsidy to Food Corporation of India (FCI) & Decentralized Procurement (DCP) States. The details of budget allocated for food subsidy:

(in ₹ crore)

Name of Scheme	Amount allocated & released for FY 2019-20			Amount Allocated for FY 2020-21 (in Budget Estimate)
	Budget Estimate	Revised estimate	Released (upto 12.03.2020)	
Food subsidy to Food Corporation of India	1,51,000	75000.00	1,19,164.02 [^]	77982.54
Food Subsidy to States following Decentralized Procurement (DCP) Scheme	33,000	33508.35	36,860.62 [*]	37337.14
Total subsidy amount	1,84,000	1,08,508.35	1,56,024.64	1,15,319.68

.....2/-

^Subject to adjustment by Ministry of Finance as the Revised estimate is 75000 Crore

*** Includes Rs 3,911.84 crore released through FCI as part of unutilized NSSF loan.**

(c): Government of India has enacted National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 which provides for coverage of about 75% of the rural and 50% of the urban population (67% of the total population of the country) for receiving highly subsidized food grains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), which at Census 2011 comes to 81.35 crore persons. The Coverage under the Act is substantially high to ensure that all the vulnerable and needy sections of the society get its benefit.

Under the Act, households covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojna (AAY) are entitled to receive 35 Kg of food grains per household per month at ₹1/2/3 per kg for coarse grains/wheat/rice respectively, and Priority House Holds are entitled to receive 5 Kg of food grains per month at the above prices. At present, the Act is being implemented in all the States/UTs.

The Act also has a special focus on the nutritional support to women and children. Pregnant women & lactating mothers and children upto 14 years of age are entitled to nutritious meals, free of cost, as per the prescribed nutritional standards and in case of non-supply of entitled food grains or meals, the beneficiaries are entitled to receive Food Security Allowance.

In the UTs of Chandigarh, Puducherry and urban areas of Dadra & Nagar Haveli, NFSA is being implemented in cash transfer mode under which cash equivalent of subsidy is being transferred directly into the bank accounts of eligible households to enable them to purchase food grains from open market.

In addition to NFSA, Gol is also allocating food grains under welfare schemes such as Wheat Based Nutrition Programme (WBNP), Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDM), Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG), Allocation of food grains under Welfare Institutions & Hostel Scheme and Annapurna Scheme.

Further, to address anemia and micro-nutrient deficiency in the country, the Government of India has approved Centrally Sponsored Pilot Scheme on 'Fortification of Rice & its Distribution under Public Distribution System'. Under the scheme, the rice is to be fortified by mixing the normal rice with Fortified Rice Kernels (FRKs) with added micro-nutrients namely Iron, Folic Acid and Vitamin B-12.