

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 274
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15th SEPTEMBER, 2020**

DISTRIBUTION OF FOODGRAINS DURING LOCKDOWN

274. SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR:

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 has increased the quantum of foodgrains distribution to the States for supply through PDS to the card holders due to lockdown in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic outbreak;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of PDS card holders, poor and needy people who have benefited under the scheme, Statewise;
- (d) whether it is proposed to extend the scheme in the coming months also and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure availability of essential food items to the States at affordable prices to the poor and needy?

**A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD &
PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO)**

(a) to (c): In pursuance of the pro-poor announcement made under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package as part of the Economic Response to COVID - 19, Govt of India had launched scheme for additional allocation of foodgrains from the Central Pool @ 5 kg per person per month free of cost for all the beneficiaries covered under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) (AAY & PHH) including those covered under DBT for a period of 3 months i.e April-June, 2020. Accordingly, about 121 LMT of foodgrain was allotted to approximately 80.96 Crore beneficiaries entailing subsidy out go of nearly Rs. 46061 Crore. Necessary orders have been issued on 30.03.2020(ANNEXURE-IA & IB).

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The above PMGKAY scheme has been extended for a further period of 5 months i.e. July – November, 2020 @ 5 kg per person per month free of cost for all the beneficiaries covered under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)/National Food Security Act(NFSA). Accordingly, about 201 LMT of foodgrains have been allotted to approx. 80.43 crore beneficiaries entailing subsidy outgo of nearly Rs.76062.12 Crore. Necessary orders have been issued on 30.06.2020 and 08.07.2020(ANNEXURE-IIA & IIB).

Also, under Atma Nirbhar Bharat Package(ANBP), Govt of India has made allocation of free foodgrain(wheat and rice) for migrants/stranded migrants who are not covered under NFSA or state ration card, @ 5 kg per person per month for two months i.e May and June, 2020 to benefit approximately 8 crore migrants/stranded migrants. Necessary orders issued on 15.05.2020(ANNEXURE-IIIA & III B).

The entitlement of foodgrains under PMGKAY and ANBP is in addition to their normal entitlement under the NFSA.

(d): The above PMGKAY scheme has already been extended till November, 2020.

(e): With the view to effectively handle the public grievances under NFSA, all States/UTs have setup toll-free number/online grievance redressal systems in their respective portals. This is in addition to the existence of District Grievance Redressal Officers (DGROs), Vigilance Committees at different levels and State Food Commissions (SFCs) to rationalize the coverage of beneficiaries under NFSA. With the help of such mechanisms in place, the States/UTs are able to effectively address the grievances related to foodgrain distribution.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.274 FOR ANSWER ON 15.09.2020 IN THE LOK SABHA.

F.No.7-1/2019(i)-BP.III

Government of India

Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution

Deptt. Of Food & Public Distribution

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi

Dated: 30th March, 2020

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: PRADHAN MANTRI GARIB KALYAN ANNA YOJANA - Additional allocation of foodgrain to all the beneficiaries covered under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) free of cost for a period of three months.

The undersigned is directed to refer to pro-poor initiatives announced under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package as a part of Economic response to COVID-19 to ameliorate the hardship faced by the poor due to economic disruption caused by Corona Virus and to say that it has been decided with the approval of the Competent Authority to provide additional foodgrain @5kg/person/month free of cost for three months, i.e. April-June, 2020 to all the beneficiaries (AAY and PHH) covered under TPDS as per provisions of NFSA. The above allocation will be over and above the regular monthly allocation of foodgrain under NFSA to such beneficiaries. The beneficiaries of TPDS in the UTs of Chandigarh, Puducherry and Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu who receive benefits under NFSA in form of DBT would also be provided foodgrain under this Scheme.

2. The Government of India will bear the entire cost on account of such distribution. To meet the requirement of foodgrain under the above scheme, State/UT-wise allocation order is being issued separately.

Sd/-

(Abhay Kumar)

Under Secretary to Govt. of India

Food Corporation of India

[Kind attention: Sri DV Prasad, CMD]

New Delhi,