

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1368
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27TH JULY, 2021

PROGRESS IN ONORC SCHEME

†1368. SHRI SANJAY BHATIA:

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 proposes to consider the importance of One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC), if so, the progress made in this regard till date;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to take decision on explanation of the period of picking up and distribution under Phase III and Phase IV of PMGKAY as per operational needs emerged due to adverse climatic conditions like monsoon and snowfall, supply services and COVID - induced obstacles, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken to remove the difficulties of the poor people relating to financial problems which emerged due to corona virus with the provision of additional allocation?

A N S W E R

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

(a): Under Public Distribution System (PDS) reforms, the One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) plan for nation-wide portability National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 ration cards is enabled in 33 States/UTs, covering almost 86.7% NFSA population (about 69 Crore NFSA beneficiaries) in the country. Delhi being the latest to enable the same from July 2021. Further, regular follow up has been done with 3 remaining States/UT of Assam, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal to enable the ONORC plan for the benefit of migrant NFSA beneficiaries.

(b): In view of the COVID-19 related difficulties, all State/UT Governments have been requested to ensure distribution of both NFSA and PMGKAY foodgrains from all FPSs, on all days of the month and for extended hours/duration of the day for staggered and ensured distribution to all NFSA beneficiaries with all COVID safety protocols and COVID appropriate behavior at all FPSs and places of PDS operations. The lifting of foodgrains under the PM-GKAY Phase-III is completed by States/UTs, while almost 93% of Phase-III distribution is also achieved so far. Further, PM-GKAY Phase-IV is valid up to November 2021 and as per extant norms the States/UTs are required to complete the lifting of foodgrains for a distribution month up to the end of the respective month itself.

(c): During the COVID-19 crisis, to ensure that no poor, needy and vulnerable beneficiary in the country suffer on account of non-availability of foodgrains, the Department under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY) had allocated nearly 322 LMT and 278 LMT foodgrains in the year 2020 and 2021 respectively, for free of cost distribution to all NFSA beneficiaries during the 8 months period in 2020 (from April to November 2020) and 7 months period in 2021 (from May to November 2021). These additional foodgrains are distributed to all beneficiaries over and above their regular monthly NFSA foodgrains. Further, States/UTs are also advised to make special efforts to encourage migrant NFSA beneficiaries to use the facility of ration cards portability under the One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) plan.
