

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1710
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8TH DECEMBER, 2021**

EXCLUSION OF BENEFICIARIES

1710. SHRI L.S. TEJASVI SURYA:

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

- (a) the measures taken to improve the targeting mechanism of Public Distribution System in all States and UTs to prevent the exclusion of beneficiaries and inclusion of ineligible citizens;**
- (b) the steps taken to increase the grain storage capacity at the district level and measures taken to prevent incidents of rotting;**
- (c) the details of the total subsidised food grains provided State and UT-wise and the people benefitted therefrom; and**
- (d) whether the Government has taken initiative to digitise the process of the distribution of food grains via Aadhar 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): Under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), inter-alia the responsibilities of identification of eligible households/ beneficiaries under the Act, issuance of ration cards to them, regular review of the list of ration card holders/ beneficiaries, etc. rests with the respective State/UT Governments. However, under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) reforms, to bring transparency and improvement in targeting of eligible households/beneficiaries under the Act, the Department in association with all States/UTs has achieved 100% digitization of all ration cards/ beneficiaries' data in the country. More than 93% ration cards are also Aadhaar seeded at the national level and the digitized list of all beneficiaries is available in public domain on the transparency portals of the respective States/UTs. Besides, the NFSA also provides a mechanism of social audits of the TPDS operations including the inclusion and exclusion of beneficiaries.

(b): Food Corporation of India (FCI) continuously assesses and monitors the storage capacity in the country and based on the requirement and storage gap assessment, storage capacities are created/hired under following schemes :-

- a) Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) scheme.**
- b) Central Sector Scheme (CSS).**
- c) Construction of SILO's**
- d) Hiring of godown from CWCs/SWCs**
- e) Private Warehousing Scheme (PWS)**

Further, the steps taken by the Government for safe storage of foodgrains to reduce the damage are stated in Annexure-I.

(c): The NFSA provides for a maximum coverage of about 81.35 Crore beneficiaries in the country for receiving the benefit of subsidised foodgrains through TPDS. Accordingly, during the year 2020-21, the Department had allocated about 521.26 LMT foodgrains under regular NFSA to the States/UTs for distribution to about 80.95 Crore beneficiaries actually covered by them under NFSA as in April 2020. A statement showing State/UT wise total allocation of foodgrains during 2020-21 and coverage of beneficiaries in April 2020 is at Annexure-II.

(d): Under TPDS reforms, for transparent distribution of subsidised foodgrains to eligible NFSA beneficiaries through digital transactions, the electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) devices are also installed in more than 93.5% of total 5.33 Lakh Fair Price Shops (FPSs) in the country so far. Presently, on an average of 80% to 85% of monthly ePoS transactions in the country happen with biometric authentication of beneficiaries to ensure the delivery of subsidised foodgrains to their rightful beneficiaries.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTIN NO.1710 FOR ANSWER ON 08.12.2021 IN THE LOK SABHA.

Steps Taken by the Government for Safe Storage of Foodgrains to Reduce Damage.

- (i) All godowns are constructed as per specifications.
- (ii) Foodgrains are stored by adopting proper scientific code of storage practices.
- (iii) Adequate dunnage materials such as wooden crates, bamboo mats, polythene sheets are used to check migration of moisture from the floor to the foodgrains.
- (iv) Fumigation covers, nylon ropes, nets and insecticides for control of stored grain insect pests are provided in all the godowns.
- (v) Prophylactic (spraying of insecticides) and curative treatments (fumigation) are carried out regularly and timely in godowns for the control of stored grain insect pests.
- (vi) Effective rat control measures, both in covered godowns as well as in CAP storage are used.
- (vii) Foodgrains in 'Cover and Plinth' (CAP) storage are stored on elevated plinths and wooden crates are used as dunnage material. Stacks are properly covered with specifically fabricated low-density black polythene water -proof covers and tied with nylon ropes/nets.
- (viii) Regular periodic inspections of the stocks/godowns are undertaken by qualified and trained staff and all senior officers. The health of the foodgrains is monitored at regular intervals by a system of checks and super checks at different levels. Following Checks and Super checks are conducted in the godowns by FCI to ensure proper preservation of foodgrains in the storage.
 - a) Fortnightly inspection of stocks on 100% basis by Technical Assistant.
 - b) Monthly inspection by Manager(QC)
 - c) Quaterly inspection by AGM(QC)
 - d) Super Checks by Regional, Zonal and FCI Hqrs Squads.
- (ix) The principle of "First in First Out" (FIFO) is followed to the extent possible so as to avoid longer storage of foodgrains in godowns.
- (x) Only covered rail wagons are used for movement of foodgrains so as to avoid damage during transit.
- (xi) Damage Monitoring Cells have been set up at District, Regional and Zonal levels to regularly monitor quality of stocks and reduce damages.
- (xii) Identify & repair all the leakage point in the roof.
- (xiii) Cleaning of drainages in the godown premises ensured.
- (xiv) Ensure no seepage inside the godowns.
- (xv) No clogging up of water in the premises.
- (xvi) Immediate action to segregate & recondition of the stocks whenever it gets affected.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTIN NO.1710 FOR ANSWER ON 08.12.2021 IN THE LOK SABHA.

Statement showing State/UT wise total allocation of foodgrains during 2020-21 and coverage of beneficiaries in April 2020:

Sl.	State/UT	Total Allocation of Foodgrains in 2020-21 (in Lakh MT)	NFSA Coverage in April 2020 (in Lakh persons)
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.04	0.61
2	Andhra Pradesh	18.5	268.23
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0.56	8.21
4	Assam	16.25	251.53
5	Bihar	55.24	857.07
6	Chandigarh	DBT Cash	2.79
7	Chhattisgarh	13.84	200.77
8	Dadra & NH and Daman Diu	0.16	2.91
9	Delhi	4.51	72.73
10	Goa	0.34	5.32
11	Gujarat	21.78	382.54
12	Haryana	7.95	126.49
13	Himachal Pradesh	2.02	28.64
14	Jammu And Kashmir	4.68	72.05
15	Jharkhand	17.4	263.70
16	Karnataka	26.09	401.93
17	Kerala	9.96	154.80
18	Ladakh	0.09	1.44
19	Lakshadweep	0.02	0.22
20	Madhya Pradesh	34.43	546.42
21	Maharashtra	46.05	700.17
22	Manipur	1.63	24.57
23	Meghalaya	1.41	21.46
24	Mizoram	0.46	6.68
25	Nagaland	0.92	14.05
26	Odisha	22.25	323.60
27	Puducherry	DBT Cash	6.15
28	Punjab	8.7	141.45
29	Rajasthan	27.88	446.62
30	Sikkim	0.26	3.79
31	Tamil Nadu	25.15	357.34
32	Telangana	12.96	191.62
33	Tripura	1.64	25.02
34	Uttar Pradesh	94.37	1,520.59
35	Uttarakhand	4.01	61.94
36	West Bengal	39.71	601.84
	Total	521.26	8,095.29
