

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1784  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2021**

**ELIGIBLE PERSONS UNDER NFSA**

**1784. SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI:**

**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- (a) whether the Government recognises that Census 2011 data is outdated for the purposes of determining the eligibility of persons to be covered under the National Food Security Act 2013 and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the percentage of the population excluded from the National Food Security Act in 2021 based on the population projections for the year as per the 2019 Report of the Technical Group on Population Projects;
- (c) whether the Government has acted on the Supreme Court's orders to re-determine the total number of persons who will be eligible to receive subsidised food grains under Section 9 of the National Food Security Act; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**A N S W E R  
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)**

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(a): Government of India enacted National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) which provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural and upto 50% of the urban population (67% of the total population of the country) for receiving highly subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), which at Census 2011 comes to about 81.35 crore. At present, approx 79.53 crore persons are covered under the Act. The coverage under the Act is substantially high to ensure that all the vulnerable and needy sections of the society get its benefit. Section 9 of the Act 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 such rural and urban areas of the State shall be calculated on the basis of the population estimates as per the census of which the relevant figures have been published. Any change in the State/UT-wise coverage is possible only after the population data of next Census is published.

**(b): The percentage of population excluded from National Food Security Act on the basis of 2019 report of the technical group on population projection is not maintained in the Department.**

**(c) & (d): Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Suo Motu Writ Petition (Civil) No.6 of 2020 with Writ Petition (Civil) No. 916 of 2020 - Bandhua Mukti Morcha Vs Union of India and Others has directed vide Order dated 29.06.2021 that the Central Government may undertake exercise under Section 9 of the National Food Security Act, 2013 to re-determine the total number of persons to be covered under the Rural and Urban areas of the State. As explained in para (a) above, any change in the State/UT-wise coverage is possible only after the population data of next Census is published.**

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