

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2352
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16TH MARCH, 2022**

COVERAGE UNDER NFSA

2352. SHRI RAJAN VICHARE:

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 taken note that the percentage of population in rural areas covered in Maharashtra under National Food Security Act (NFSA) is comparatively low as compared to other States and if so, the facts thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has received any representation from Government of Maharashtra for reassessing the percentage of coverage under NFSA in the State and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the time by which the Government is likely to review the percentage of beneficiary coverage of the State under NFSA; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and 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)**

(a): The exercise of State-wise coverage within the overall national coverage under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) was done by the erstwhile Planning Commission (Now NITI Aayog) using the 68th round of National Sample Survey Organization Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (2011-12). A State-wise cut off level of monthly expenditure was arrived at separately for rural and urban areas and population below this cut off monthly expenditure was eligible for coverage under the Act. The methodology of Planning Commission was such that the percentage coverage under NFSA was not uniform across all States/Union Territories. Coverage was higher for those States/Union Territories, where the size of the population below the cut off level of expenditure was relatively large in proportion to their total population vis-à-vis those states where the proportion was smaller. The coverage so determined for the State of Maharashtra is 76.32% of the rural and 45.34% of the urban population which at Census 2011 comes to 700.17 lakh persons.

(b) to (d): Representations have been received from time to time from various States/UTs including Maharashtra regarding enhancement of beneficiary coverage under the NFSA.

Section 9 of the NFSA 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 the State shall be calculated on the basis of the population estimates as per the census of which the relevant figures have been published. Therefore, any revision in the coverage under the NFSA shall be possible only after the relevant data of next population Census is published.

As the criteria for determination of coverage under the Act as arrived at by the erstwhile Planning Commission is uniformly applicable for all the States/UTs, no request of any of the State Government has been considered by the Central Government.
