

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1640
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27TH JULY, 2022**

STATE RANKING ACT FOR NFSA

1640. SHRI SANJAY SADASHIVRAO MANDLIK:

SHRI RAVI KISHAN:

SHRI RAVINDRA KUSHWAHA:

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:

SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV:

SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:

SHRI DHAIRYASHEEL SAMBAJIRAO MANE:

SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:

SHRI SUBRAT PATHAK:

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 released its first State Ranking Index for National Food Security Act (NFSA) for the States in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of criteria adopted or the various pillars on which ranking was given by the Government to various States;
- (c) whether the NFSA enacted to attain nutritional security, food security, crop diversification, reforms in PDS and storage sector was able to fulfill its aims and objectives;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps taken by the Government for its proper implementation;
- (e) whether the Government has set any deadline for the States to submit their claims of pending dues regarding food subsidy to States and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether the Government proposes to incentivise the States who perform better in the above said Index 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): Yes Sir, to evaluate the implementation of the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) and Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) operations across the states and union territories, the Government has released first ever State Ranking Index for the NFSA on 5th of July, 2022.

(b): The Index rests upon three pillars that consider various facets of food security and nutrition. Each pillar has parameters and sub-parameters that support this evaluation. The first pillar measures coverage of NFSA, rightful targeting, and implementation of all provisions under NFSA. The second pillar analyses the delivery platform while considering the allocation of food grains, their movement, and last-mile delivery to Fair Price Shops. The final pillar focuses on nutrition initiatives of the department.

(c) & (d): Government enacted the National Food Security Act, 2013 which provides food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity. The Act provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural and upto 50% of the urban population, i.e. about two-thirds of the total population of the country, for receiving foodgrains at highly subsidized prices of Rs.3/2/1 per kg for rice/ wheat/ coarsegrains respectively. In addition to this, the Act provides that pregnant women and lactating mothers and children in the age group of 6 months to 14 years are entitled to meals as per prescribed nutritional norms under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and Mid-Day Meal (MDM) schemes. Higher nutritional norms are prescribed for malnourished children upto 6 years of age.

The Act further provides that the Central and State Governments shall endeavour to progressively undertake necessary reforms in the Targeted Public Distribution System in consonance with the role envisaged for them in this Act. The reforms shall inter-alia include diversification of commodities distributed under the Public Distribution System over a period of time.

The Act is successfully implemented in all the States/UTs and about 79.77 crore persons are getting the benefits of the subsidized foodgrains under the Act.

(e): States are allocated foodgrains at subsidized rates under the National Food Security Act, 2013 and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS). Difference between Economic Cost and Central Issue Price (CIP), at which foodgrains are issued to States, is reimbursed to Food Corporation of India (FCI) as food subsidy. In case of Decentralized Procurement (DCP) States, food subsidy is directly released to States by Government of India for quantity of foodgrains procured and distributed by them under NFSA and OWS. FCI further releases funds to Non-DCP States for quantum of foodgrains received by FCI from Non-DCP States. The subsidy is provided to DCP States and FCI, which is the instrument of the Government of India for procurement and distribution of wheat and rice under NFSA and OWS and for maintaining the buffer stock of foodgrains as a measure of food security.

Admissible amount of Provisional/ Advance Food Subsidy is released to DCP States based on their quarter wise claims. Release of food subsidy is a continuous process. The claims received from the State Governments are processed keeping in view the opening and closing balance of stock, procurement, allocation and distribution of foodgrains, FCI reconciliation, Utilization Certificate, Economic Cost of foodgrains, etc, among others. Reimbursement of incidentals and statutory charges is governed by the extant principles on the subject.

(f): The State Ranking Index aims to create an environment of competition, cooperation, and learning among states, promote transparency, and publish verified data in the public domain for research and analysis. At present, no proposal to incentivize the better performing States in the State Ranking is under consideration of the Government.