

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1750
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27TH JULY, 2022

ONORC IN RAJASTHAN

†1750. SHRIMATI JASKAUR MEENA:

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

- (a) the salient features of Public Distribution System (PDS);
- (b) the details of amount sanctioned, allocated and utilised under this system in Rajasthan during the last three years;
- (c) the details of the targets fixed and the achievements made so far under the same;
- (d) whether the One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) along with Pradhan Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) served as a lifeline to food security for the people during the pandemic;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Government contemplates to improve the PDS and storage sector; and
- (g) 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) Public Distribution System (PDS) is implemented under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 in all States/UTs. The Act provides coverage upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population for receiving foodgrains (rice, wheat & coarsegrains) at highly subsidized rates of Rs. 3/2/1 per kg respectively. Under the Act eligible families comprise of Priority Households (PHH) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. The Priority Households are entitled to receive 5 kg of foodgrains per person per month and the families covered under the AAY receive 35 kg of foodgrains per month per family at the same rate.

NFSA is operated under the joint responsibilities of the Central and State/UT Governments. Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation and transportation of foodgrains upto the designated depots of the Food Corporation of India (FCI). The operational responsibilities for identification of eligible beneficiaries/families, issuance of ration cards to them, distribution of foodgrains to eligible beneficiaries and supervision and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs), etc. rests with the concerned State/UT Government.

(b) & (c): This Department allocates only subsidized foodgrains to States/UTs for monthly distribution to all NFSA ration card holders instead of allocation of funds. Rajasthan does not submit food subsidy claims to this Department and hence no subsidy has been released to the State of Rajasthan during the last three years.

(d) & (e): Yes, sir. ONORC along with PMGKAY has proved to be a lifeline during COVID-19 pandemic period. This is corroborated from the fact that about 69 Crore portable transactions have taken place across all States/UTs during Covid period itself.

Under the “Pradhan Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)”, additional free-of-cost 5 kg foodgrains is provided to around 80 Crore NFSA beneficiaries in the country to ameliorate the food security hardships faced by the poor and needy due to unprecedented outbreak of the pandemic, consequent lockdowns and thus the economic disruptions caused across the country. PMGKAY has been implemented for 25-month period over 6 phases since April, 2020 with an earmarked total financial outlay of approximately Rs.3.4 Lakh Crore, and total food grains allocation of nearly 999 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT).

(f) & (g): Under PDS reforms, ration cards/beneficiaries database have been completely digitized in all States/UTs, transparency portal and online grievance redressal facility/Toll-free number have been implemented in all States/UTs, online allocation has been implemented in all States/UTs (except UTs of Chandigarh and Puducherry which have adopted Direct Benefit Transfer Cash Transfer scheme) and supply chain has been computerized in 31 States/UTs. Further, about 99% ration cards are seeded with Aadhaar number and almost all FPSs have been automated by installation of ePoS devices for the distribution of foodgrains in a transparent manner (electronically) through biometric /Aadhaar authentication of NFSA beneficiaries.

In so far as storage of public foodgrains is concerned, FCI continuously assesses and monitors the storage capacity and based on the storage gap assessment, storage capacities are created/hired through various schemes; such as, Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme, Central Sector Scheme (CSS), Construction of Silo's under PPP mode, Hiring of godown from Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC)/ State Warehousing Corporation (SWCs)/State Agencies, Private Warehousing Scheme (PWS).