

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2659
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7TH AUGUST, 2024

REFORMS IN PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

2659 SHRI DILESHWAR KAMAIT:

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 the Public Distribution System (PDS);
- (b) the details of the amount sanctioned, allocated and utilized during the last four years in Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal thereunder, district-wise;
- (c) the details of the target set and achievements made so far under the schedule along with its response within the country especially in the above said States;
- (d) whether the Government is planning to reform the PDS and storage sector within the country; and
- (e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)

(a): The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) 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). Under the Act eligible families comprise of Priority Households (PHH) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households. The Priority Households are entitled to receive 5 kg of foodgrains per person per month and the households covered under the AAY receive 35 kg of foodgrains per month per family. Under the TPDS, foodgrains were provided at subsidized prices upto December, 2022. However, w.e.f. 1st January, 2023, foodgrains under the Act are being distributed to eligible beneficiaries free of cost under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana.

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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): The Government of India allocates subsidized foodgrains to States/UTs for monthly distribution to all NFSA ration card holders. The details of foodgrains allocated to Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal during the last four years as well as current year under Targeted Public Distribution are at Annexure.

Further, the details of fund released under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme – “Assistance to State Agencies for intra- state movement of foodgrains and FPS dealers’ margin under NFSA” to the States of Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal in the last four years is as follows:

(Fig. in Rs. Crore)

State	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Total
Bihar	796.58	743.27	881.05	434.73	2855.64
Jharkhand	170.94	282.50	187.02	99.64	740.10
West Bengal	626.64	741.32	535.06	226.32	2129.35

(c): Allocation of foodgrains to States/UTs under the NFSA, 2013 is made on the basis of State/UT-wise coverage of population determined by the then Planning Commission, identification of beneficiaries by States/UTs within the coverage and foodgrains entitlement prescribed under the Act. The Act further provides that if on the above basis, annual foodgrains allocation to any State/UT is lower than the average annual offtake during 2010-11 to 2012-13 under erstwhile normal Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), the same shall be protected and the State shall be allocated foodgrains as specified in Schedule IV. As per Schedule-IV of the National Food Security Act, 2013, the States/UTs are entitled to 549.26 LMT of foodgrains per annum. Under NFSA, 2013 the States/UTs are being allocated around 46.235 LMT of food grains per month (approx. 554.83LMT per annum). Inclusion/exclusion of beneficiaries under the Act is a continuous process.

(d) to (e): As part of the technology driven Public Distribution System (PDS) reforms, with the aim to improve the efficiency and transparency of the PDS and to address various challenges such as leakages and diversion of foodgrains, ration cards/beneficiaries database have been completely digitized in all States/UTs. The transparency portal and online grievance redressal facility/Toll-free number have been implemented in all States/UTs. Also, online allocation has been implemented in all States/UTs (except UTs of Chandigarh and Puducherry which have adopted DBT Cash Transfer scheme) and supply chain has been computerized in 31 States/UTs. Further, nearly 5.41 Lakh out of total 5.43 Lakh Fair Price Shops (FPSs) in the country have been automated by installing ePoS devices for the distribution of foodgrains in a transparent manner (electronically) through biometric/Aadhaar authentication of beneficiaries.

Food Corporation of India has undertaken taken various initiatives to reform storage sector such as under:

- (i) Construction of SILOs under Public Private Partnership (PPP) Mode.
- (ii) Phasing out of Covered and Plinth (CAP).
- (iii) Third party assessment of warehouses by FCI from Quality Council of India.
- (iv) Mechanization of Warehouse operations.
- (v) Warehousing Development Regulatory Authority (WDRA) Certification of FCI godowns.

ANNEX REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2659 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 07.08.2024

Allocation and Offtake of Foodgrains under TPDS

(Fig. in Thousand tons)

Sl. No	States/ UTs	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25 (up to June, 24)	
		Allocation	Offtake	Allocation	Offtake	Allocation	Offtake	Allocation	Offtake	Allocation	Offtake
1	Bihar	5524.33	5183.85	5527.10	4890.76	5527.10	5153.63	5527.10	4924.71	1381.77	1166.76
2	Jharkhand	1739.51	1760.58	1724.90	1501.65	1743.73	1708.01	1751.02	1545.75	437.998	407.16
3	West Bengal	3970.62	3941.56	3970.62	3817.03	3970.62	4127.34	3970.62	4325.74	992.65	995.58

Offtake Source: FCI
