

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

**LOK SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2592  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2024

**PDS CARDHOLDERS**

2592. SHRI CHUDASAMA RAJESHBHAI NARANBHAI:

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

- (a) the number of Public Distribution System (PDS) cardholders in the country during each of the last five years including Above Poverty Line (APL)/Below Poverty line (BPL), category, and State-wise;
- (b) the number of incidences when ration was denied due to non-verification with Aadhaar; and
- (c) the details and the number of Indian citizens who are not PDS card holders or beneficiaries?

**A N S W E R**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,  
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)

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(a): As per the provisions of the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), the Department allocates foodgrains to all States/UTs for distribution to 80.67 crore beneficiaries under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Priority Household (PHH) categories of the Act. The NFSA is operational in a uniform manner in all States/UTs, and there is no Above Poverty Line (APL)/ Below Poverty Line (BPL) category under the Act. A statement showing State-wise coverage of NFSA Beneficiaries is at **Annexure**.

(b): The Department has extended the timeline given to the States/UTs, under the Notification dated 08/02/2017 (as amended from time to time) issued in exercise of Section-7 of the Aadhaar Act 2016, for completing the Aadhaar seeding of ration cards up to 31.12.2024. Until then, all States/UTs have been advised that no genuine beneficiary/household shall be deleted from the list of eligible ration cards/ beneficiaries or shall not be denied their entitled quota of foodgrains under NFSA only for want of Aadhaar number or only on the ground of not possessing an Aadhaar number, failure of biometric authentication due to network/ connectivity/ linking issues or any other technical reasons etc.

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(c): National Food Security Act (NFSA) provides maximum coverage for about 81.35 Crore persons, out of which, currently around 80.67 crore persons are covered to avail free foodgrains under NFSA. The States/UTs can issue ration cards upto the ceiling limit prescribed under National Food Security Act (NFSA). A statement showing State-wise coverage of NFSA Beneficiaries is at **Annexure**.

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ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a), (c) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2592 FOR ANSWER ON 11.12.2024 IN THE LOK SABHA.

**State-wise Number of NFSA Beneficiaries as on 31.10.2024**

Sl. No.	States/ UTs	Present coverage (In lakh)			
		AAY		Priority	Total persons
		No. of families	No. of person	No. of persons	
1	Andhra Pradesh	9.08	23.52	244.7	268.22
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.38	1.5	6.9	8.4
3	Assam	6.92	28.08	223.08	251.17
4	Bihar	25.01	125.05	746.11	871.16
5	Chhattisgarh	7.19	20.42	180.35	200.77
6	Delhi	0.69	2.78	70	72.78
7	Goa	0.12	0.46	4.86	5.32
8	Gujarat	7.76	35.82	327.17	362.98
9	Haryana	2.68	11.35	115.14	126.49
10	Himachal Pradesh	1.65	6.82	23.07	29.88
11	Jharkhand	8.94	34.76	229.43	264.19
12	Karnataka	10.97	43.91	358.02	401.93
13	Kerala	5.96	25.59	129.21	154.8
14	Madhya Pradesh	14.63	54.93	479.86	534.79
15	Maharashtra	25.05	108.01	592.16	700.17
16	Manipur	0.64	1.91	18.97	20.87
17	Meghalaya	0.7	2.91	18.54	21.46
18	Mizoram	0.26	0.64	6.41	7.05
19	Nagaland	0.48	2.11	11.94	14.05
20	Odisha	12.53	37.57	287.6	325.17
21	Punjab	1.79	7.64	133.8	141.45
22	Rajasthan	6.29	22.29	417.72	440.01
23	Sikkim	0.17	0.57	3.24	3.81
24	Tamil Nadu	18.64	65.78	298.34	364.12
25	Telangana	5.67	15.95	175.74	191.62
26	Tripura	1.09	4.62	19.81	24.43
27	Uttar Pradesh	40.9	132.57	1377.26	1509.82
28	Uttarakhand	1.84	7.92	54.02	61.94
29	West Bengal	16.42	54.99	546.85	601.84
30	A&N	0.04	0.14	0.46	0.61
31	DNH&DD	0.05	0.24	2.45	2.69
32	Lakshadweep	0.01	0.04	0.18	0.22
33	Chandigarh (DBT)	0*	0.01#	2.98	2.99
34	Puduchery (DBT)	0.25	0.82	5.52	6.34
35	J&K	2.33	10.61	61.8	72.41
36	Ladakh	0.06	0.29	1.15	1.44
<b>Total</b>		<b>237.19</b>	<b>892.62</b>	<b>7174.86</b>	<b>8067.47</b>

Since information is in lakhs, the figures for Chandigarh in absolute nos.:

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