

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2599
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH DECEMBER, 2024

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

2599. SHRI KAMAKHYA PRASAD TASA:
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 features of the Public Distribution System (PDS) Scheme;
- (b) the details of funds sanctioned allocated and utilized under this scheme within Andhra Pradesh and Bihar during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) the details of the target set and achievements made so far under the schedule along with its response within the country;
- (d) the details of items being provided through PDS across the country including the said States;
- (e) the details of the number of beneficiaries of this scheme in these States;
- (f) whether the digital system has helped in identifying the ineligible beneficiaries under this scheme; and
- (g) the details thereof along with plans/efforts made to reform PDS and storage sector and to improve its efficiency and transparency in operations in the country including timeline for implementation?

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.

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 allocation and Offtake of foodgrains to Andhra Pradesh and Bihar during the last three years as well as current year under Targeted Public Distribution are at Annexure A.

Further, the details of funds released under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme-4048-“Assistance to State Agencies for intra-state movement of foodgrains and FPS dealers’ margin under NFSA” to the State of Andhra Pradesh & Bihar in the last two years is as follows:

(Fig. in Rs. Crore)

State	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Total
Andhra Pradesh	122.37	91.73	105.44	148.95	468.49
Bihar	743.27	881.05	434.73	581.71	2640.77

(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. Inclusion/exclusion of beneficiaries under the Act is a continuous process.

(d): Under NFSA, foodgrains are being provided to States/UTs for distribution through Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). The term “foodgrains” is defined as rice, wheat or coarse grains or any combination thereof conforming to such quality norms as may be determined, by order, by the Central Government from time to time. In addition to this, the State/UT Governments may formulate food or nutrition based plans or schemes providing for benefits higher than the benefits provided under NFSA from their own resources.

(e): At present, against the total intended coverage of 81.35 crore, 80.67 crore persons are covered under PMGKAY. The number of beneficiaries presently covered in the State of Bihar and Andhra Pradesh are as follows:

(in Lakh)

Name of the States	Intended Coverage	Present coverage
Andhra Pradesh	268.23	268.23
Bihar	871.16	871.16

(f) to (g): As part of the technology driven Public Distribution System (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 and urban areas of Dadra & Nagar Haveli which have adopted DBT Cash Transfer scheme) and supply chain has been computerized in 31 States/UTs. So far, 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) Third party assessment of warehouses by FCI from Quality Council of India.
- (iii) Mechanization of Warehouse operations.
- (iv) Warehousing Development Regulatory Authority (WDRA) Certification of FCI warehouses.

ANNEXURE -A**ANNEX REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2599 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 11.12.2024****(In thousand tons)**

SL. NO	STATE S/UTs	2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25 (October)	
		Allocation	Offtake	Allocation	Offtake	Allocation	Offtake	Allocation	Offtake
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1871.844	1750.856	1871.844	1859.240	1871.844	1893.663	1091.909	1084.379
2.	Bihar	5527.100	4890.761	5527.100	5153.630	5527.100	4924.707	3224.142	2658.863

Offtake Source : FCI
