

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.314
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27TH NOVEMBER, 2024

FOOD INSECURITY

314 SHRI K SUDHAKARAN:
SHRI ANTO ANTONY:
SHRI TANUJ PUNIA:
DR. M P ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI:

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

- (a) the total number of individuals experiencing food insecurity in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the reasons for which the Government is failing to ensure equitable distribution of foodgrains, particularly in remote and underserved regions and the measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) the details of the steps being taken by the Government to improve the quality and nutritional value of foodgrains provided through the Public Distribution System (PDS);
- (d) whether the Government monitors the effectiveness of food security programmes across the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) & (b): The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) provides for coverage of upto 75% of rural population and upto 50% of urban population for receiving highly subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), thus covering about two-thirds of the total population. Coverage under the Act is substantially high to ensure that all the vulnerable and needy sections of the society get its benefit. The Act is being successfully implemented in all the States/UTs and free of cost foodgrains are being distributed to about 80.67 crore beneficiaries as per their entitlement under the Act. There is no report from any State/UT regarding food insecurity.

(c): In order to achieve uniform nutritional impact of fortified rice among the targeted population, the Government of India is supplying fortified rice throughout the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) Scheme, and Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme and in other Welfare Schemes (OWS) in all States and Union Territories (UTs). Custom-milled rice has been replaced with fortified rice in every scheme of the Government and 100% coverage of distribution of fortified rice has been achieved by March, 2024. Millets, which are commonly known as Nutri- Cereals, are already a part of Public Distribution System (PDS).

(d) & (e): The NFSA provides for periodic social audits on the functioning of fair price shops, Targeted Public Distribution System and other welfare schemes, through local authority, or any other authority or body, as may be authorized by the State Government. The Central Government may also conduct or cause to be conducted social audit through independent agencies having experience in conduct of such audits.

The Government has engaged Monitoring Institutions (MIs) of repute to undertake concurrent evaluation of the implementation of National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) in all States/UTs for 03 years (2020-23). The questionnaires devised for the evaluation exercise also covered few questions on the receipt of free foodgrains under PMGKAY. Reports submitted by the MIs of the surveyed households indicate that ration under NFSA have been provided free of cost since January 2023 to eligible beneficiaries during the period of survey.
