

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3179
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19TH MARCH, 2025

BENEFICIARIES UNDER NFS SCHEME

†3179. SHRI BHAJAN LAL JATAV:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the process of adding new names had to be postponed since 18.05.2020 due to the exceeding limit on the number of beneficiaries in the National Food Security (NFS) Scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to resolve the issue;
- (c) whether the Government has received a proposal from any of the States to increase the beneficiaries ceiling by 15 per cent from its limit of 4.46 crore
- (d) whether the Government is considering this proposal;
- (e) if so, the present status thereof;
- (f) whether the Government is formulating any special schemes to ensure that no eligible family is left out of the NFS Scheme; and
- (g) the number of such pending applications under NFS in Karauli, Dholpur and Bharapur?

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 is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State Governments. The responsibility of identification of eligible beneficiaries under the Act rests with the State Government.

As reported by the State Government of Rajasthan, the number of beneficiaries eligible to be covered under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) being more than the ceiling determined for the State, the process of addition of new beneficiaries was put on hold since 18.05.2020. Thereafter, the portal was opened from 01.04.2022 to 30.04.2022 and 13.05.2022 to 28.05.2022. The portal has been opened again from 26.01.2025.

(c): The request for enhancement of coverage of beneficiaries by 15% from its limit of 4.46 crore had been received from the State Govt. of Rajasthan.

(d) & (e): Section 9 of the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) provides that the percentage coverage under the Targeted Public Distribution System in rural and urban areas for each State shall be determined by the Central Government and the total number of persons to be covered in the State shall be calculated on the basis of the population estimates as per the census of which the relevant figures have been published. Any revision in the coverage under the NFSA shall be possible only after the relevant data of next population Census is published. Therefore, the request of the State Government was not acceded to.

(f): Sub-Section (2) of Section 10 of the Act provides that the State Government shall update the list of eligible households, within the number of persons determined under section 9 for the rural and urban areas, in accordance with the guidelines framed under sub-section (1). The Central Government has issued an advisory to all the States/Union Territories to identify all eligible and poor persons/ households including vulnerable Sections of the Society for inclusion under the NFSA. States undertake cleaning up of their beneficiary database so that bogus ration cards get deleted and better targeting of rightful beneficiaries is ensured. Thus, deletion of ineligible beneficiaries and addition of eligible beneficiaries under the Act is a continuous process.

(g): The number of pending applications under NFSA in the Karauli, Dhaulpur and Bharatpur is as follows:

District name	Total pending Applications (as on 07.03.2025)
Karauli	24,498
Dhaulpur	55,568
Bharatpur	30,819
