

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1688
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30TH JULY, 2025

FOOD SECURITY SCHEMES IN PDS

1688. SHRI AMRA RAM:

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

- (a) the number of families (without Government service) deprived of food security schemes under the Public Distribution System(PDS) along with the State-wise list thereof;
- (b) the criteria for depriving someone of food security in the PDS;
- (c) whether the Government intends to provide food security to such families again and if so, the time by which it is likely to be done and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether apart from foodgrains, essential items like cooking oil, pulses, etc. are also being provided through the food distribution system in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (c): The Public Distribution System is now governed as per the provisions of the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) which aims to supplement the food requirements of upto 75% of the rural and upto 50% of the urban population, which at Census 2011 comes to 81.35 crore persons. The Coverage under the Act is substantially high to ensure that all the vulnerable and needy sections of the society get its benefit. At present, against the intended coverage of 81.35 crore, 80.56 crore beneficiaries are receiving foodgrains free of cost.

The Act provides that the State Government shall, within the ceiling of beneficiaries determined for the State, identify the households to be covered under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana to the extent specified by the Central Government, in accordance with the guidelines applicable to the said scheme and the remaining households as priority households to be covered under the Targeted Public Distribution System, in accordance with such guidelines evolved by the State Government itself. Thus, the criteria for identification of beneficiaries under Priority Households Category may vary from State to State.

(d) to (e): Under the Act, while Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households, which constitute poorest of the poor are entitled to 35 kg of foodgrains, per household per month, Priority Households (PHH) are entitled to 5 kg of foodgrains per person per month free of cost.

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.
