

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2833
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6TH AUGUST, 2025

FREE RATION TO POOR

2833. Shri Anil Yeshwant Desai:

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

- (a): whether it is a fact that Government is extending free ration facilities to the poor who are not in a position to buy it;
- (b): if so, the details along with the quantity of the free ration distributed to the poor during last five years;
- (c): whether the country's food production is sufficient to help these poor people; and
- (d): if so, the details of the expenditure incurred for the free ration facilities during the last ten years?

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

(a): The Government is successfully implementing the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) in all the States/UTs, which provides for coverage of upto 75% of rural population and upto 50% of urban population, which at Census 2011 comes to 81.35 crore. Coverage under the PMGKAY 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 identified by the States/UTs under the Act for receiving foodgrains free of cost.

(b): The Quantity of foodgrains distributed in the last five years is as follows:

Year	Distributed quantity (In MT)
2021	4,42,83,988
2022	4,89,79,847
2023	4,90,36,431
2024	5,00,71,936
2025*	3,03,42,719

*-as on 31.07.2025

(c): Sufficient stocks are available in the Central Pool to meet the requirement of foodgrains under the PMGKAY.

(d): A statement showing the food subsidy released since 2014-15 is at Annexure.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN PART (d) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2833 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 06.08.2025 REGARDING “FREE RATION TO POOR”.

Statement showing the food subsidy released since 2014-15

(in crore)

S.NO.	Year	Total Subsidy released
1	2014-15	113171.16
2	2015-16	134919.00
3	2016-17	130672.96
4	2017-18	139981.69
5	2018-19	171127.49
6	2019-20	152672.35
7	2020-21	541126.77
8	2021-22	288718.54
9	2022-23	272501.70
10	2023-24	211393.85
11	2024-25	199500.00
12	2025-26*	53404.99

*- As on 29th July 2025