

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2897
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6TH AUGUST, 2025

INCREASING THE ANNUAL INCOME FOR PDS

2897. SHRI AMRA RAM:

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

- (a): whether the Department proposes to increase the annual income from Rupees one lakh to two lakhs under the Public Distribution System (PDS);
- (b): if so, the time by which it is likely to be done and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c): whether it is a fact that the rupee has been developed at its lowest level against the Dollar; and
- (d): whether foodgrains are being distributed because of inflation only and 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 Public Distribution System (PDS) is now governed as per the provisions of the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA). Identification of beneficiaries under the act is under two categories- households covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) to the extent specified by the Central Government and the remaining households as priority households to be identified by the State Governments/ Union Territories (UT) Administrations as per criteria evolved by them, within the coverage determined for the State/UT. Thus, the criteria for identification of beneficiaries under Priority Households Category may vary from State to State depending upon Socio-Economic, demographic conditions of the State.

(c): The relative value of currencies including Rupee and Dollar, is determined by a multitude of macro-economic factors, inter alia, including interest rates, inflation, economic growth, trade balance etc. and is dynamic in nature.

(d): The act provides for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The act provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population, which at Census 2011 comes to 81.35 crore persons. At present, free of cost foodgrains are being provided to around 80.56 crore beneficiaries.
