

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2965
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6TH AUGUST, 2025

RATION FOR BPL FAMILIES

2965. SHRI RAMPRIT MANDAL:
SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

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

- (a): whether there is a provision to authorise solely Below Poverty Line (BPL) families to ration through ration cards issued by the Government;
- (b): the quantum of ration currently being provided to BPL families through ration cards along with the price fixed for the separate items provided through ration cards; and
- (c): the details of the benefits provided to the common man of the country through One Nation One Ration Card?

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

(a): The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), being implemented in all the States/UTs, on an all India basis, 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 beneficiaries. The Coverage under the Act is substantially high to ensure that all the vulnerable and needy sections of the society get its benefit.

Identification of beneficiaries under the NFSA 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. There is no BPL category under the Act.

(b): 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

(c): The nationwide portability of ration cards is popularly known as One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) feature. Through this technology driven reform, around 80 Crore PMGKAY beneficiaries are empowered to lift their entitled foodgrains from any Fair Price Shop (FPS) of their choice, anywhere in the country, by using their same existing ration card with biometric authentication on an electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) device. The family back home can also lift the part of the PMGKAY foodgrains in the home State/UT on the same ration card. ONORC feature is enabled in all 36 States/UTs, across the country, covering all 100% PMGKAY beneficiaries.
