

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4141
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19TH AUGUST, 2025

DISTRIBUTION OF SURPLUS FOODGRAINS

4141. SMT. MAHIMA KUMARI MEWAR:

Will the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide more foodgrains to the poor through various schemes instead of using surplus foodgrains for commercial purpose till the next crop year in the present situation of excess foodgrain storage capacity in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof in this regard in the country, State-wise including Rajasthan?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) & (b): The total stock of Rice and Wheat available in central pool as on 01.07.2025 is 377.83 Lakh Metric Tons (LMT) and 358.78 Lakh LMT, respectively, against foodgrain stocking norms of 135.40 Lakh LMT for Rice and 275.80 Lakh LMT for Wheat.

After meeting the annual allocation of foodgrains for 2025-26 under the National Food Security Act (NFSA/ Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) and additional allocation for natural calamities, festivals etc., the Government of India triggers the available options of disposal of the stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool through the Open Market Sale Scheme-Domestic (OMSS-D) etc. The humanitarian assistance/aid, fully in grant form, to the deserving countries, is also allowed only through the Ministry of External Affairs.

The Government is implementing the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) for a period of five years with effect from 1st January, 2024, which provides food and nutritional security in human life-cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to the people to live a life with dignity.

The PMGKAY aims to supplement the food requirements of upto 75% of the rural and upto 50% of the urban population, which as per Census 2011, comes to 81.35 crore persons. 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 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.