

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 493
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23RD JULY, 2025

FREE FOODGRAINS UNDER PMGKAY

†493. DR. SHIVAJI BANDAPPA KALGE:
SHRI GYANESHWAR PATIL:
SHRI BHUMARE SANDIPANRAO ASARAM:
SMT. DELKAR KALABEN MOHANBHAI

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

- (a) the details of the number of beneficiaries receiving free foodgrains under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) during the current year till date as compared to last five years;
- (b) the impact of PMGKAY in ensuring food security among the economically weaker sections particularly of Dadra and Nagar Haveli;
- (c) the measures taken by the Government to strengthen the logistics and supply chain mechanism for uninterrupted foodgrain distribution under PMGKAY in various States/UTs including Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli; and
- (d) the details of technological interventions integrated to ensure transparency and reduce leakages in PMGKAY distribution?

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

- (a): A Statement indicating the number of beneficiaries covered under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) during last five years in the country is as follows:

Financial Year	Number of beneficiaries covered under PMGKAY (In lakh)
2020-21 (As on 31.03.2021)	7932.80
2021-22 (As on 31.03.2022)	7972.53
2022-23 (As on 31.03.2023)	8010.70
2023-24 (As on 31.03.2024)	8049.94
2024-25 (As on 31.03.2025)	8056.05
2025-26 (As on 01.07.2025)	8056.05

(b): The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) being successfully implemented in all the States/UTs including Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, 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 Under the PMGKAY, 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. At present, against the intended coverage of 81.35 crore, 80.56 crore beneficiaries are receiving foodgrains free of cost.

The Central Government, in order to remove the financial burden of the poor beneficiaries and to ensure nationwide uniformity and effective implementation of the programme for support of the poor, had decided to provide free of cost foodgrains to beneficiaries, beginning from 1st January 2023 under the PMGKAY. The period for distribution of free of cost foodgrains has been extended for five years from 1st January, 2024.

Under the PMGKAY, the coverage of beneficiaries is substantially high to ensure that all the vulnerable and needy sections of the society get its benefit. Provision of free foodgrains mitigate financial hardship of the affected strata of society in a sustainable manner and ensure long term pricing strategy with zero cost to the beneficiaries.

In Urban areas of Dadra and Nagar Haveli (Silvassa Municipal and Dadra Panchayat), the PMGKAY is being implemented in Direct Cash Transfer Mode in which Cash equivalent to Food Subsidy (i.e. Rs. 43.28/- per Kg for Rice and Rs.30.31/- per Kg for Wheat) is provided directly into the bank account of beneficiaries. In remaining part of the UT of DNH&DD, the free of cost foodgrains are being distributed to the beneficiaries.

(c): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is now governed as per the provisions of the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), which is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and State/Union Territory (UT) Governments. Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation and transportation of foodgrains upto the designated depots of the Food Corporation of India. The operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, distribution of foodgrains to eligible beneficiaries under TPDS and supervision over and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs), etc rest with the concerned State/UT Government.

(d): In consonance with Section 12 of the National Food Security Act, (NFSA), 2013 the reforms undertaken in TDPS to ensure transparency and reduce leakage in PMGKAY distribution include digitization of ration cards / beneficiaries database, seeding of unique identification numbers (Aadhaar) in digitized database, online allocation of foodgrains, computerization of Supply Chain Management, automation of Fair Price Shops, portability of ration cards, full transparency of records and putting in place a strong Grievance redressal machinery.
