

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 675
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23RD JULY, 2025

FOOD INSECURITY IN BUNDELKHAND REGION

†675. SHRI NARAYANDAS AHIRWAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the situation of food insecurity in the Bundelkhand region;
- (b) if so, the special measures taken in the districts of the said region during the last five years under schemes for distribution of foodgrains i.e. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Antyodaya Yojana, National Food Security Act and Public Distribution System (PDS); and
- (c) whether the Government proposes to introduce any special 'food security package' or nutrition campaign "Aahaar Abhiyan" for the said region so as to ensure timely and adequate nutritious food for the poor families there?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)

(a) to (b): The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) is being successfully implemented in all the States/UTs including Bundelkhand region, 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 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.

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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 food grains to beneficiaries, beginning from 1st January 2023 under the PMGKAY. The period for distribution of free of cost foodgrains has been extended for further five years w.e.f 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.

Under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Government, the responsibility for identification of beneficiaries and issuance of their ration cards rests with the concerned State Government. The Central Government issues advisories to all the States/Union Territories from time to time to identify all eligible and poor persons/ households including vulnerable Sections of the Society for inclusion under the NFSA. States are undertaking updation of their beneficiary database so that ineligible ration cards get deleted and better targeting of rightful beneficiaries is ensured.

(c): At present, there is no proposal for special food package under consideration of Department of Food & Public Distribution, Government of India for the said region.
