

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1779
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10TH DECEMBER, 2025

BENEFICIARIES OF PMGKAY

1779. SHRI SUDAMA PRASAD:

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

- (a) the details of the criteria being used to determine ineligibility of beneficiaries under the PMGKAY as per the data shared by the Income Tax Department;
- (b) the details of beneficiaries of the scheme and the details of the estimated number of beneficiaries likely to be removed from the scheme, State/district-wise;
- (c) the details of the measures taken by the Government to prevent wrongful exclusion of eligible beneficiaries;
- (d) whether any grievance redressal mechanism has been made available for those wrongly classified as ineligible under the income verification and also the alternative measures which are put in place to address the same;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) whether the Government has constituted any committee to assess the impact on vulnerable households under the stated exclusion process 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) to (c): Under Section 10 of the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, the responsibility for identifying eligible and ineligible households rests entirely with the State/UT Governments. As per Section 10(1), each State/UT is required to frame its own inclusion and exclusion guidelines and identify Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Priority Households (PHH) within the coverage limits determined under the Act. Further,

Section 10(2) mandates that States/UTs must periodically review and update their beneficiary lists in accordance with these guidelines. Accordingly, the statutory authority for identification, validation, and updation of NFSA beneficiaries lies exclusively with the respective State/UT Governments. In order to support States/UTs in improving the accuracy of beneficiary databases, the Department undertook an analytical exercise wherein PMGKAY beneficiary data was cross-matched with datasets of other Ministries/Departments such as CBDT, CBIC, MCA, UIDAI (Aadhaar), and MoRTH (Vahan), in addition to internal parameters such as silent cards, duplicate cards, beneficiaries aged above 100 years, single-member AAY households, etc. Based on this multi-layered analysis, 8.51 crore beneficiaries were flagged for field-level verification.

States/UTs have been advised to carry out re-verification of these flagged cases strictly in accordance with their notified inclusion/exclusion criteria. Any decision regarding retention, deletion, or correction of beneficiary records is taken only after such verification by the respective State/UT Governments. No beneficiary is removed automatically or without due process. As reported by the States/UTs, 2.12 crore of the flagged beneficiaries have been deleted after verification, thereby enabling the inclusion of genuinely eligible households.

State-wise details of flagged and deleted beneficiaries after verification (as on 30.11.2025) at Annexure.

(d) to (f): The Department has taken several steps to strengthen grievance redressal in the Public Distribution System. Major initiatives include:

1. Strengthened Grievance Redressal Systems

- Universal availability of 1967/1800-series toll-free helplines across all States/UTs.
- Introduction of Anna Sahayata, an advanced AI-enabled WhatsApp and IVRS-based grievance redressal system, allowing beneficiaries to lodge complaints in their own language.
- Mera Ration Mobile App, which enables beneficiaries to check their entitlements, member and demographic details, last month's distribution status, nearby FPS location, and to lodge grievances directly through the app.

2. Enhanced Monitoring through CPGRAMS

- States/UTs and all concerned organisations have been sensitised to strictly adhere to the 21-day timeline for grievance disposal prescribed under CPGRAMS.
- Pendency of grievances is monitored regularly through CPGRAMS dashboards.
- Monthly advisories are issued to States to promote uniform and timely grievance resolution.
- States/UTs with high pendency levels are specifically flagged for corrective action.

3. Capacity Building & Oversight

- Regular trainings, workshops, and video conferences are conducted with States/UTs to improve the efficiency of grievance handling systems.
- The Department ensures strict implementation of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for grievance redressal, ensuring accountability and timely resolution.

Further, to prevent wrongful exclusion of eligible beneficiaries, the Department has advised all States/UTs to conduct physical and individual-level verification of each flagged case before taking any action. This process ensures that eligibility is determined strictly in accordance with State/UT-specific criteria framed under Section 10 of NFSA.

The Department has not constituted any such committee to assess the impact on vulnerable households under the stated exclusion process.

State-wise details of flagged and deleted beneficiaries after verification (as on 30.11.2025)

Sr No.	State Name	Flagged Cases	Deleted Cases
1	ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS	971	135
2	ANDHRA PRADESH	37,90,418	2,76,035
3	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	1,67,926	1
4	ASSAM	35,95,862	12,93,470
5	BIHAR	54,20,773	12,68,435
6	CHANDIGARH	61,481	2,345
7	CHHATTISGARH	33,36,534	1,54,320
8	Dadar & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	52,265	8,431
9	DELHI	8,14,258	23,600
10	GOA	49,279	3,299
11	GUJARAT	55,09,230	14,06,257
12	HARYANA	31,64,507	19,47,958
13	HIMACHAL PRADESH	5,32,435	21,819
14	JAMMU AND KASHMIR	10,67,961	26,484
15	JHARKHAND	40,69,980	6,46,786
16	KARNATAKA	7,61,689	49,773
17	KERALA	19,21,831	74,442
18	LADAKH	19,229	602
19	LAKSHADWEEP	6,084	50
20	MADHYA PRADESH	73,85,254	8,03,617
21	MAHARASHTRA	1,78,44,571	72,73,133
22	MANIPUR	5,66,437	15,023
23	MEGHALAYA	49,455	47
24	MIZORAM	1,72,241	3,768
25	NAGALAND	3,08,904	18,425
26	ODISHA	49,27,086	18,83,084
27	PUDUCHERRY	31,002	1,183
28	PUNJAB	22,11,899	2,57,493
29	RAJASTHAN	75,68,053	14,69,874
30	SIKKIM	38,134	3,590
31	TAMIL NADU	10,46,675	84,416
32	TELANGANA	4,95,795	1,17,796
33	TRIPURA	1,05,000	46,705
34	UTTAR PRADESH	54,80,518	17,38,231
35	UTTARAKHAND	8,53,703	17,762
36	WEST BENGAL	17,29,802	3,51,997
Grand Total		8,51,57,422	2,12,90,386