

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

**LOK SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2879  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2025**

**PMGKAY**

**2879. SHRI RAJESH NARANBHAI CHUDASAMA:**

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

- (a): the aims and objective behind launching of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) and achievement made since its inception;
- (b): the number of beneficiaries who have benefitted from the yojana in the State of Gujarat;
- (c): the details of the measures taken by the Government to ensure the benefits of PMGKAY reach all eligible families, particularly SC/ST/OBC; and
- (d): the details of the other steps taken by Government to ensure that the food provided under PMGKAY meets nutritional standards and is sufficient for the beneficiaries?

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

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(a): The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) was launched with the specific purpose of ameliorating the hardships faced by the poor and needy due to economic disruptions caused by the COVID-19 outbreak in the country.

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 food grains free of cost to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households and Priority Households (PHH) 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, with an estimated financial outlay of Rs. 11.80 lakh crore totally to be borne by Central Government.

(b): The scheme provides for coverage of 74.64% of the rural and 48.25% of the urban population in the State of Gujarat, for receiving foodgrains free of cost, which at Census 2011 comes to 382.85 lakh persons.

At present, the State Government of Gujarat has identified 365.84 lakh beneficiaries, which is 95.56% of total coverage.

(c): The PMGKAY is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State Governments. Under the joint responsibility of the Union and the States, the responsibility for identification of beneficiaries, 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. The Central Government has issued advisory, from time to time, to all the States/Union Territories to identify all eligible and poor persons/ households including vulnerable Sections of the Society including SC/ST/OBC for inclusion under the PMGKAY.

(d): In order to improve the nutritional standards in targeted beneficiaries, the Government has revised the nutritional norms specified in Schedule-II of the Act, vide notification dated 25.01.2023.

Further, in order to improve the level of nutrition, an advisory has also been issued to all the States/UTs to procure millets and distribute them to beneficiaries as per local consumption preferences and as per guidelines issued by the Central Government from time to time.

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