

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 61
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH FEBRUARY, 2026

EFFECTIVENESS OF PMGKAY AND PDS

†*61. **SHRI NALIN SOREN:**
DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY:

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

(a): the details of the measures taken by the Government to increase the reach and effectiveness of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) and the Public Distribution System (PDS) in the country including Dumka district of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Jammu-Kashmir, Telangana, Nabarangpur Lok Sabha Constituency of Odisha and Tribal and Rural dominated Chhindwara district of Madhya Pradesh and Palghat district in Maharashtra;

(b): the present status of digitalisation of ration cards and implementation of One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) scheme in all States and Union Territories including Dumka district of Jharkhand, Jammu-Kashmir, Telangana, Nabarangpur Lok Sabha Constituency of Odisha and Chhindwara district of Madhya Pradesh;

(c): the outcomes recorded in terms of number of beneficiaries receiving free foodgrains, inter-State and inter-district portability transactions and improvement in food security, transparency and beneficiary satisfaction during last five years, State and year-wise especially in context of Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Nabarangpur Lok Sabha Constituency in Odisha;

(d): whether the Government has undertaken any State-wise assessment of PMGKAY and PDS reforms particularly in Maharashtra and Jalgaon Lok Sabha constituency;

(e): if so, the details of beneficiaries covered, grievance redressal performance and measures taken to address last-mile delivery challenges in Maharashtra including Jalgaon district; and

(f): the details of the funds released during the last five years on PMGKAY and PDS in Palghar district of Maharashtra?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTRY
OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) To (f) OF LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 61* (1ST POSITION) FOR ANSWER ON 4TH FEBRUARY,
2026 REGARDING 'EFFECTIVENESS OF PMGKAY AND PDS'**

(a): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) governed under National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/UT Governments. The operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible beneficiaries & families, issuance of ration cards to them, distribution of foodgrains to eligible beneficiaries, supervision and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) etc. rest with the concerned State/ UT Governments.

Union Government has laid down a robust mechanism to seamlessly distribute the food grains under PMGKAY to around 80 Crore Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) beneficiaries through Fair Price Shops in all the State/UTs.

As part of the Government's digital initiatives to enhance reach, effectiveness under PMGKAY and the Public Distribution System (PDS), the ration card/beneficiary database has been 100% digitised across all States and Union Territories, with 99.9% ration cards Aadhaar-seeded and 99.2% beneficiaries aadhaar seeded.

This has enabled beneficiaries to access their full entitlements at Fair Price Shops through e-PoS devices using their Ration Card Number or Aadhaar Number, with biometric authentication. Further, initiatives such as One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC), Mera Ration App and Anna Sahayata have expanded the reach of food security benefits, particularly to migrant and mobile populations, thereby improving the effectiveness of PMGKAY and PDS.

(b): At present, 100% ration cards have been digitized across the country. The nationwide portability of ration cards popularly known as One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) feature is enabled in all States and Union Territories recording approx. 3 Crore average monthly transactions. Through this technology driven reform, around 80 Crore Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) beneficiaries are empowered to lift their entitled foodgrains from any Fair Price Shop (FPS) of their choice, anywhere in the country, by using their same existing ration card with biometric authentication on an electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) device. The family back home can also lift the part of the PMGKAY foodgrains in the home State/UT on the same ration card.

(c): At present as on 1st Feb 2026, PMGKAY has a coverage of total 79.44 Cr beneficiaries who are receiving free food grains every month.

In the last 3 years the beneficiaries receiving free food grains every month are as follows:

SNo	Year	State/District	No of beneficiaries
1	2025	Madhya Pradesh	5,36,23,491
2		Karnataka	4,01,94,741
3		Maharashtra	68,073,038
4		Nabrangpur, Odisha	10,59,870

SNo	Year	State/District	No of beneficiaries
1	2024	Madhya Pradesh	5,54,18,818
2		Karnataka	4,01,93,000
3		Maharashtra	6,84,32,163
4		Nabrangpur, Odisha	11,03,025

SNo	Year	State/District	No of beneficiaries
1	2023	Madhya Pradesh	5,26,52,028
2		Karnataka	4,04,21,534
3		Maharashtra	6,65,71,685
4		Nabrangpur, Odisha	11,05,617

The ONORC facility is automatically available to all eligible PMGKAY beneficiaries without any additional requirement. It has been implemented seamlessly to cover 100% PMGKAY beneficiaries (including women and migrant workers). To date, 201 crore portability transactions have been recorded under ONORC, covering both inter-State and intra-State. The high number of portability transactions shows wide acceptance of ONORC among PMGKAY beneficiaries.

The State and year-wise details of Inter-state and Intra-state portability transactions is at **Annexure**.

(d): This Department engaged Monitoring Institutions (MIs) of repute to undertake concurrent evaluation of the implementation of National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) in different States/UTs for Phase-I (2018-20) and Phase-II (2020-23). Reports submitted by the MIs are available in public domain at https://nfsa.gov.in/portal/Concurrent_Evaluation.

(e): 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 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.

These steps collectively strengthen grievance redressal mechanisms, improve transparency and help ensure that all beneficiaries receive their rightful foodgrain entitlements in a timely and transparent manner.

(f): The detail of funds released to State of Maharashtra (including Palghar) from FY 2020-21 to till date is as below- **(Rs. in Crores)**

Maharashtra

2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26 (as on 30.01.2026)
2555.74	4082.07	2725.75	3923.29	327.74	1458.49

Madhya Pradesh State Inter and Intra state Portability Transaction		
Year	Inter State Transaction	Intra State Transaction
2020	-	17,65,206
2021	-	48,65,597
2022	-	99,45,128
2023	16,190	1,45,64,873
2024	58,836	1,68,48,549
2025	58,367	1,81,85,859
Total	133393	66175212

Karnataka State Inter and Intra state Portability Transaction		
Year	Inter State Transaction	Intra State Transaction
2019	0	44,55,146
2020	0	79,84,959
2021	0	99,89,711
2022	0	1,17,92,668
2023	4	1,25,62,916
2024	0	1,24,65,740
2025	0	1,17,69,583
Total	4	7,10,20,723

Maharashtra State Inter and Intra state Portability Transaction		
Year	Inter State Transaction	Intra State Transaction
2020	-	44,90,543
2021	-	52,84,921
2022	-	1,11,71,528
2023	2,34,020	1,17,48,227
2024	6,70,750	1,34,77,593
2025	8,74,642	1,46,62,510
Total	17,79,412	6,08,35,322

Nabarangpur District Inter and Intra state Portability Transaction		
Year	Inter State Transaction	Intra State Transaction
2020	0	5
2021	0	2,760
2022	0	9,037
2023	0	5,195
2024	0	5,714
2025	0	5,287
Total	0	27,998
