

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

**LOK SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3131  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026**

**PDS, NFSA, ONORC IN UT OF LAKSHADWEEP**

**3131. SHRI MUHAMMED HAMDULLAH SAYEED:**

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

- (a): the details of the Central schemes relating to Ministry being implemented in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep and the extent of their coverage;
- (b): the status of implementation of schemes such as Public Distribution System (PDS) National Food Security Act (NFSA), One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) and Consumer Protection initiatives in Lakshadweep;
- (c): the challenges faced in implementation due to geographical isolation, transportation and storage constraints; and
- (d): the steps taken by the Government to ensure timely availability of essential commodities, price stability and effective consumer grievance redressal in Lakshadweep?

**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) & (b): The Central Government is implementing the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), which provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population, which at Census 2011 comes to 81.35 crore persons.

The PMGKAY is being successfully implemented in all the States/UTs including Union Territory of Lakshadweep. The UT Administration of Lakshadweep has identified 20,095 beneficiaries against the intended coverage of 21,868 beneficiaries for receiving free of cost foodgrains under the PMGKAY.

The One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) plan is successfully implemented by all States/UTs including Union Territory of Lakshadweep.

(c): The implementation of PDS in Lakshadweep is ensured meeting all geographical, storage & transportation challenges.

(d): The Essential Commodities Act (EC Act), 1955 and the Prevention of Black marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act (PBMMSEC Act), 1980 provide the legislative and administrative foundations to the Government to regulate prices, production, supply, distribution etc. of essential commodities for maintaining or increasing their supplies and for securing the equitable distribution and availability at fair prices, and to prevent hoarding/black-marketing of foodstuffs.

The National Consumer Helpline (NCH) administered by the Department of Consumer Affairs has emerged as a single point of access for consumers across the country including the Union Territory of Lakshadweep for the redressal of their grievances at the pre-litigation stage. Consumers can register their grievances in 17 languages including Hindi, English and Malayalam through the toll-free number 1915. These grievances can be registered on Integrated Grievance Redressal Mechanism (INGRAM), an omni-channel IT enabled central portal, through various channels- WhatsApp (8800001915), SMS (8800001915), email (nch-ca@gov.in), the NCH app, the web portal (consumerhelpline.gov.in) and the Umang app, as per their convenience. Further, for price stability, the Department of Consumer Affairs monitors the daily prices of 40 essential food commodities submitted by the 578 price monitoring centres across the country. As per the data, prices of food commodities are stable and under control.

Government keeps a close watch on the production and availability of essential commodities through regular reviews by the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC). The Committee reviews, on regular basis, the scenario and the indicative trends in prices of essential agricultural commodities and suggests measures to enhance availability through increased domestic production and rationalisation in export-import policies.

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