

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

**LOK SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4143  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026**

**BENEFICIARIES UNDER PMGKAY**

†4143. **SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:**

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

- (a): the details of the total number of beneficiaries currently covered under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY);
- (b): whether any assessment has been made regarding reduction in these numbers and if so, the details thereof;
- (c): the total expenditure incurred under PMGKAY scheme so far;
- (d): whether the Government proposes to extend the duration of the said scheme; and
- (e): if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**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 Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural and upto 50% of the urban population for receiving free of cost foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), which at Census 2011 comes to about 81.35 crore. Coverage under the PMGKAY is substantially high to ensure that all the vulnerable and needy sections of the society get its benefit.

At present, against the intended coverage of 81.35 crore, the States/UTs have identified 79.40 crore person, which is about 97.60% of the intended coverage i.e. 81.35 crore persons. Still, there is a scope of identification of 1.95 crore more beneficiaries under the PMGKAY.

The Central Government has issued 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 undertake updation of their beneficiary database so that ineligible ration cards get deleted and better targeting of rightful beneficiaries is ensured. Thus, deletion of ineligible beneficiaries and addition of eligible beneficiaries under the Act is a continuous process.

(c): The total food subsidy released by Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) from the FY 2020-21 to till date (as on 12.03.2026) are as under:

Financial Year	Amount (in crore)
2020-21	541126.77
2021-22	288718.54
2022-23	272501.69
2023-24	211394.39
2024-25	199499.67
2025-26*	192535.13

\*-as on 12.03.2026

From April, 2020 to December 2022 under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyaan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), 5Kg per person per month free of cost food grain was additionally distributed to all AAY and PHH beneficiaries.

In addition, funds are also released to States/UTs under the centrally sponsored scheme “Assistance to state agencies for intra state movement of foodgrains & FPS Dealers margin under NFSA” for meeting the expenditure incurred by States/UTs for meeting expenditure on intra-state movement and handling of foodgrains and Fair Price Shop (FPS) dealers’ margin for foodgrains distributed to beneficiaries under the Act. The details of funds released to States/UTs from FY 2020-21 to as on 12.03.2026 are as under: -

Financial Year	Fund released (in crore)
2020-21	6482.54
2021-22	6000.00
2022-23	8572.03
2023-24	8704.46
2024-25	6945.39
2025-26*	4595.68

\*-as on 12.03.2026

(d) & (e): The Central Government, in order to remove the financial burden of the poor beneficiaries and to ensure nationwide uniformity had distributed food grains free of cost to beneficiaries i.e. Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households and Priority Households (PHH) beneficiaries, for a period of one year beginning from 1st January 2023 under the Pradhan Mantri Grib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY). The period for distribution of free of cost foodgrains has been extended for further five years i.e. from 1st January, 2024, with an estimated financial outlay of Rs. 11.80 lakh crore totally to be borne by Central Government. At present, no proposal for extension of PMGKAY beyond 31 December 2028 is under consideration of the Government.

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