

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4180
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18TH MARCH, 2026

FOODGRAIN ASSISTANCE, PDS COVERAGE AND STATE-SPECIFIC PROVISION

4180. SHRI P C MOHAN:

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

- (a): the total number of beneficiaries receiving foodgrain assistance under the National Food Security Act and other Central schemes in Karnataka and specifically in Bengaluru, category-wise;
- (b): the quantity and types of foodgrains presently distributed under the Public Distribution System (PDS) in Bengaluru;
- (c): whether the Government proposes to include additional nutritious items such as millets, pulses or other essential grocery items under the PDS in Karnataka and Bengaluru;
- (d): the details of steps taken by the Government to prevent leakage, diversion and pilferage of foodgrains under the PDS through digitisation, Aadhaar authentication and supply-chain monitoring; and
- (e): whether any State-specific provision exists or is proposed to distribute locally grown crops such as millets or region-specific foodgrains through the PDS based on local agricultural production dietary patterns 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): The State Government of Karnataka has identified beneficiaries up to the maximum permissible limit i.e. 401.93 lakh person determined for the State under National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) in Karnataka. The number of beneficiaries identified by the State Government in Bengaluru District of Karnataka are as follows:

District	AAY	PHH	Total
Bengaluru Rural	59,800	7,09,284	7,69,084
Bengaluru Urban	48,754	13,85,479	14,34,233

(b) & (c): Under the Act, free of cost foodgrains are being distributed to eligible beneficiaries. The term “foodgrains” is defined as rice, wheat or coarse grains or any combination thereof conforming to such quality norms as may be determined, by order, by the Central Government from time to time. Millets, which are commonly known as Nutri-Cereals, are already a part of Public Distribution System (PDS). At present, no proposal to include more commodities under the Act is under consideration of the Government.

(d): The efforts made by Government for modernization of Public Distribution System to prevent leakage, diversion and pilferage of foodgrains in all States/UTs (including Karnataka) are as follows:

(i) Ration cards/beneficiary’s database have been completely digitized (100%) in all States/UTs. 99.7% of ration cards have been Aadhar seeded.

(ii) The transparency portal and online grievance redressal facility/Toll-free number have been implemented in all States/UTs.

(iii) Online allocation has been implemented in all States/UTs and supply chain has been computerized in 31 States/UTs (except UTs of Chandigarh, Puducherry and Urban area of Dadra & Nagar Haveli which have adopted DBT Cash Transfer scheme).

(iv) The nationwide portability of ration cards, popularly known as One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) has been implemented in all 36 States/UTs, covering all Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) beneficiaries.

(v) More than 5.50 Lakh (99.8%) out of total 5.51 Lakh Fair Price Shops (FPSs) in the country have been automated by installing ePoS devices for the distribution of foodgrains through Aadhaar biometric authentication of beneficiaries.

(e): To improve the level of nutrition among the targeted beneficiaries covered under the Act, all the States/UTs have been advised to procure millets and distribute to beneficiaries as per local consumption preferences and as per guidelines issued by the Central Government from time to time.
