

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 6147
TO BE ANSWERED ON 1ST APRIL, 2026

FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SECURITY

6147. MD ABU TAHER KHAN:

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

- (a): whether the Government has undertaken any recent assessment of food and nutritional security in the country particularly among vulnerable and low-income households and if so, the key findings thereof;
- (b): the measures being implemented by the Government to ensure adequate availability, affordability and accessibility of essential food grains and nutritional support across States and Union Territories; and
- (c): whether there have been instances of exclusion of eligible beneficiaries from subsidised food distribution under the Public Distribution System due to authentication issues, ration card irregularities or digitisation challenges and if so, the steps taken by the Government to address such concerns?

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

(a) to (c): The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) is being implemented in all the States/UTs aims to supplement the food requirements of upto 75% of the rural and upto 50% of the urban population, which at Census 2011 comes to 81.35 crore persons. While Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households, which constitute poorest of the poor are entitled to 35 kg of foodgrains, per household per month, Priority Households (PHH) are entitled to 5 kg of foodgrains per person per month free of cost. The Coverage under the Act is substantially high to ensure that all the vulnerable and needy sections of the society get its benefit. As on 01.03.2026, against the intended coverage of 81.35 crore, 79.40 crore beneficiaries are receiving foodgrains free of cost.

Under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State Governments, the responsibility for identification of beneficiaries, within the coverage determined for the State/UT and issuance of their ration cards rest with the concerned States/UTs.

The Central Government issues 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 PMGKAY. States are undertaking updation of their beneficiary

database so that bogus ration cards get deleted and better targeting of rightful beneficiaries is ensured. Thus, deletion of ineligible beneficiaries and addition of eligible beneficiaries is a continuous process.

All States/UTs have been advised vide this Department's letter dated 24/ 10/2017 that no genuine beneficiary/household shall be denied from receiving entitled quota of subsidized foodgrains due to failure of biometric/Aadhaar authentication due to network/connectivity/linking related issues, other technical reasons or poor biometrics of the beneficiary.
