

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 782
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH FEBRUARY, 2026

FOODGRAIN DISTRIBUTION AND PDS DIGITISATION IN WEST BENGAL

782. SHRI RAJU BISTA:

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

- (a): the details of funds and ration released to the State of West Bengal since 2019 under various schemes of the Government;
- (b): the details of ration and quantum released in West Bengal since 2019, district-wise particularly in Darjeeling, Kalimpong and North Dinajpur districts;
- (c): the details of steps being taken by the Government to ensure PDS digitization in West Bengal, such as Aadhaar linkage, inter-state portability of ration cards for migrant workers and e-POS rollout particularly in Darjeeling, Kalimpong, and North Dinajpur districts; and
- (d): the details of the steps taken by the Government to improve the last-mile delivery of foodgrains to remote tea estates and villages, particularly in difficult mountain terrain regions like Darjeeling and Kalimpong?

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

- (a) and (b): Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) reimburses the expenditure incurred by States, that have opted for Decentralized Procurement (DCP) mode (including West Bengal) for distribution of food-grains to the beneficiaries of Central Schemes as per allocation made by Government of India. The difference between Economic Cost and Central Issue Price (CIP), at which foodgrains are issued to States, is reimbursed to Food Corporation of India (FCI) and DCP States as food subsidy. The food subsidy released to DCP States and FCI is made as per budgetary allocation made by MoF. State wise funds are not allocated by MoF. Also, funds are released by DFPD for meeting the expenditure incurred by States/UTs including Govt of West Bengal on intra State movement and handling of food grains and Fair Price Shops (FPS) dealers margin' for food grains distributed to beneficiaries. The details of funds released to West Bengal since 2019 onwards are as below:-

		(Rs. in Crore)
Year	Total	
2019-20	2194.86	
2020-21	9418.67	
2021-22	6162.66	
2022-23	7115.17	
2023-24	226.32	
2024-25	9598.55	
2025-26	11977.00	

The allocation of foodgrains by DFPD to all State/UTs is made on the basis of identification of beneficiaries reported by the State Government. The responsibility of district wise allocation of food grains rests with concerned State/UT. The details of allocation of food grains to Govt of West Bengal since FY 2019-20 onwards are as below: -

(Quantity in thousand ton)			
Years	Rice	Wheat	Total
2019-20	2033.82	2364.5	4398.32
2020-21	3620.98	3265.87	6886.85
2021-22	3403.66	4327.27	7730.93
2022-23	4654.28	2420.62	7074.9
2023-24	2823.63	1588.25	4411.88
2024-25	2749.41	1711.47	4460.88
2025-26	2567.88	1781.86	4349.74

(c) and (d): As part of digital effort to bring in transparency and accountability, ration cards/beneficiaries database have been completely digitized (100%) in all States/UTs. Further, 99.9% ration cards are Aadhaar seeded. This system enables beneficiaries to receive their full entitlement simply by having their Ration Card Number or Aadhaar Number entered into the ePOS device at FPS shops, followed by biometric authentication through fingerprint or iris scan. In addition, beneficiaries can fully avail themselves of other digital initiatives such as ONORC, the Mera Ration App, Anna Sahayata, and more. The Status of PDS digitization in State of West Bengal (including the districts of Darjeeling, Kalimpong and North Dinajpur) is as follows:

- I) Aadhar Seeding- 100%
- II) Inter-State portability transactions- 1,39,920 (for December, 2025)
- III) e-PoS rollout- 99.9 % (i.e. 21084 out of total 21,105 Fair Price Shops).

Further, Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) governed under National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFS) 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.

DFPD has taken several steps to strengthen grievance redressal in the Public Distribution System such as availability of toll free helplines, introduction of Anna Sahayata, an advanced WhatsApp and IVRS-based grievance redressal system, allowing beneficiaries to lodge complaints in their own language and 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.
