

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2884
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5TH AUGUST, 2026

ADEQUACY OF FOODGRAIN COVERAGE UNDER THE NFSA

2884. DR. KIRSAN NAMDEO:

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

- (a) whether the Government has undertaken any assessment of the adequacy of foodgrain coverage under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) in view of population growth since the last Census and the increasing demand for subsidised foodgrains and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to revise the beneficiary coverage, update ration card databases and include eligible but excluded households under the Public Distribution System (PDS);
- (c) if so, the details of the steps taken by the Government to strengthen the One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) system, improve grievance redressal, curb diversion of foodgrains and ensure doorstep availability of foodgrains to migrant workers and other vulnerable beneficiaries; and
- (d) the details of beneficiaries added, deleted and verified under the NFSA and ONORC during the last three years along with the measures taken by the Government to improve transparency and efficiency in the Public Distribution System, State/UT-wise?

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

(a) & (b): The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) is being successfully implemented in all the States/UTs. The Act provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural and upto 50% of the urban population, which at Census 2011 comes to 81.35 crore persons. The Coverage under the Act is substantially high to ensure that all the vulnerable and needy sections of society get its benefit. The States/UTs have identified only 79.08 crore persons, against the intended coverage of 81.35 crore persons. Still, there is a scope for identification of 2.27 crore more beneficiaries by the States/UTs, under the NFSA.

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 society, for inclusion under the NFSA. States undertake 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 under the Act is a continuous process.

(c) & (d): The measures taken by the Government in respect of revision of beneficiary coverage, updation of ration card databases, inclusion of eligible beneficiaries, strengthening of ONORC, grievance redressal, transparency and related initiatives are as below:

i. Digitization & Aadhaar seeding: Ration cards/beneficiary database 100% digitized in all States/UTs; 99.7% of ration cards Aadhaar-seeded, eliminating ineligible/duplicate cards.

ii. Transparency & grievance redressal: Transparency portals and online grievance redressal/toll-free helplines operational in all States/UTs.

iii. Online allocation & supply chain computerisation: Online allocation implemented in all States/UTs; supply chain computerised in 31 States/UTs (except Chandigarh, Puducherry and urban Dadra & Nagar Haveli, which have adopted DBT Cash Transfer).

iv. ePoS-based Aadhaar authentication at FPS level: 5.50 lakh (99.8%) of 5.51 lakh Fair Price Shops automated with ePoS devices, ensuring biometric authentication of beneficiaries at the point of distribution and curbing diversion.

v. One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC): Nationwide portability implemented across all 36 States/UTs, covering all PMGKAY beneficiaries; over 221 crore portability transactions recorded to date, reducing exclusion and duplicate entitlement claims.

vi. Rightful Targeting (RT): A dedicated de-duplication and beneficiary-verification exercise using Aadhaar/PDS data analytics has led to identification and deletion of ineligible/duplicate beneficiaries, with 5.95 Cr flagged beneficiaries (excluding landholding cases) and 2.35 Cr deleted beneficiaries. The State/UT-wise details of deleted beneficiaries through rightful targeting under the NFSA are placed at **Annexure-I**.

vii. SMART-PDS reform initiative: Being implemented with modules for Ration Card Management, Distribution, Supply Chain and Grievance Redressal to further standardise and digitally integrate State-level TPDS operations.

viii. NIRMAL & SAKSHAM: New initiatives under the SARTHAK PDS Umbrella Scheme (2026–31) aimed at strengthening data architecture/analytics (NIRMAL) and real-time data integration (including VLTS) from Procurement of food grains to Distribution to the beneficiaries (Saksham).

The State/UT-wise details of beneficiaries deleted through exercise of rightful targeting are at Annexure.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN PART (c) & (d) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2884 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 05.08.2026 REGARDING “ADEQUACY OF FOODGRAIN COVERAGE UNDER THE NFSA”

Details of beneficiaries deleted on account of rightful targeting

S. No.	Name of the States/UTs	Number of beneficiaries deleted
1	GUJARAT	15,58,704
2	MADHYA PRADESH	7,18,968
3	CHHATTISGARH	2,09,940
4	ANDHRA PRADESH	6,31,849
5	RAJASTHAN	16,67,678
6	HARYANA	17,65,459
7	UTTAR PRADESH	31,21,226
8	LAKSHADWEEP	3,933
9	MAHARASHTRA	73,44,074
10	TRIPURA	52,204
11	KARNATAKA	4,44,756
12	BIHAR	17,68,896
13	KERALA	3,04,879
14	ODISHA	3,73,370
15	TELANGANA	1,62,229
16	PUNJAB	2,81,892
17	ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS	137
18	JAMMU AND KASHMIR	43,183
19	TAMIL NADU	2,56,877
20	ASSAM	13,00,729
21	JHARKHAND	7,84,020
22	CHANDIGARH	16,629
23	DADAR & NAGAR HAVELI & DAMAN & DIU	9,637
24	WEST BENGAL	3,61,151
25	NAGALAND	17,022
26	LADAKH	677
27	MANIPUR	8,800
28	HIMACHAL PRADESH	36,992
29	DELHI	1,07,528
30	UTTARAKHAND	80,355
31	SIKKIM	4,734
32	GOA	3,247
33	PUDUCHERRY	1,217
34	MIZORAM	10,817
35	MEGHALAYA	2,071
36	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	27
Grand Total		2,34,55,907