

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (2023-2024)**

34

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

**MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD
AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION)**

{Action Taken by the Government on the observations/ recommendations contained in the Twenty Eighth Report of the Committee (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on the subject "Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)" pertaining to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution)}

THIRTY FOURTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

December, 2023/ Agrahayana, 1945 (Saka)

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Presented to Lok Sabha on 12 December, 2023

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 12 December, 2023



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

December, 2023/ Agrahayana, 1945 (Saka)

CONTENTS		
Composition of the Committee		iv
Introduction		v
Chapter I	Report	1
Chapter II	Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by Government	8
Chapter III	Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government replies	19
Chapter IV	Observation/Recommendation which have not been accepted by Government	20
Chapter V	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of Government are still awaited	21
APPENDICES		
(I)	Minutes of the Fifth sitting of the Committee (2023-24) held on 07.12.2023	22
(II)	Analysis of the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Twenty Eighth Report of the Standing Committee on Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Seventeenth Lok Sabha)	24

Composition of the Standing Committee on Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (2023-24)

Smt. Locket Chatterjee - Chairperson

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Dr. Farooq Abdullah
3. Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay
4. Shri Shafiqur Rahman Barq
5. Shri Rajendra Dhedyia Gavit
6. Shri Sanganna Amarappa Karadi
7. Shri Faizal P.P. Mohammed
5. Km. Debasree Chaudhuri
6. Dr. Amar Singh
7. Shri Anil Firojiya
8. Shri Ganesan Selvam
9. Shri Khagen Murmu
10. Shri Mitesh Rameshbhai Patel
11. Shri Subrat Pathak
12. Smt. Himadri Singh
13. Smt. Kavita Singh
17. Shri Nandigam Suresh
18. Shri Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka
19. Shri Rajmohan Unnithan
20. Shri Vaithilingam Ve.
21. Vacant

Rajya Sabha

22. Shri Satish Chandra Dubey
23. Dr. Fauzia Khan
24. Shri Rajmani Patel
25. Shri Sakaldeep Rajbhar
26. Dr. Ashok Bajpai
27. Shri Baburam Nishad
28. Shri C. Ve Shanmugam
29. Shri Prakash Chik Baraik
30. Vacant
31. Vacant

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Dr. Ram Raj Rai - Joint Secretary
2. Dr. Vatsala Joshi - Director
3. Dr. Mohit Rajan - Deputy Secretary

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (2023-2024) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Thirty Fourth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Twenty Eighth Report of the Committee (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on the subject “Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)” of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution).

2. The Twenty Eighth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 03.08.2023. The Government has furnished its replies indicating Action Taken on the recommendations contained in the Report on 03.11.2023.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 7th December, 2023.

4. An analysis of the action taken by the Government on Observations/Recommendations contained in the Report is given in **Appendix II**.

5. For facility of reference and convenience, the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in thick type in the text of the Report.

NEW DELHI;
7 December, 2023
16 Agrahayana, 1945 (Saka)

LOCKET CHATTERJEE,
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

REPORT

CHAPTER – I

This Report of the Standing Committee on Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Twenty Eighth Report of the Committee (17th Lok Sabha) on the subject 'Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)' pertaining to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution).

1.2 The Twenty Eighth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 03.08.2023. It contained 08 observations/recommendations. Action taken replies in respect of all the 08 observations/ recommendations contained in the Report have been received and these have been categorized as follows:-

- (i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by Government -

Para Nos. :- 1,2,3,4,5,6,7&8

(Chapter – II, Total : 08)

- (ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies -

Para. No.:- Nil

(Chapter – III, Total : 0)

- (iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee -

Para No.:- Nil

(Chapter – IV, Total : 0)

- (iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of Government are still awaited -

Para No. :- Nil

(Chapter – V, Total : 0)

1.3 The Committee trust that utmost importance will be given to the implementation of the recommendations accepted by the Government. The Committee desire that final action taken notes to the Observations/Recommendations contained in Chapter-I of this Report should be furnished to the Committee within three months of the presentation of this Report.

1.4 The Committee will now deal with action taken by the Government on some of the recommendations.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 2)

1.5 The Committee in their original report observed/recommended as follows:-

“The Committee note that PMGKAY completed 28-month period over 7 phases starting from April 2020 till December, 2022 with an earmarked total financial outlay of approximately Rs. 3.91 Lakh Crore, and total food grains allocation of nearly 1,118 Lakh Metric Tons (LMTs). During all the seven phases of the scheme, out of total allocation of 1,118 LMTs, 1037 LMTs food grains were lifted and, 1015 LMTs were distributed i.e., 97.88% of the total lifted quantity. Similarly, as per provisional data, out of the planned outlay of Rs.3.91 lakh crore for subsidy under the scheme for the aforementioned seven phases, an amount of Rs. 3.42 lakh crore amounting to 87.5% of the planned outlay was incurred as per the reply submitted by the department vide their communication dated 28 July, 2023. The Committee are glad to note that the performance of the PMGKAY in both physical and financial terms has been outstanding. The Committee appreciate the efforts put in by the Department of Food and Public Distribution and also Food Corporation of India (FCI) in making the scheme a grand success which went a long way in addressing the food grains requirements of the poor throughout the country during the extremely difficult period of Covid-19 period. The Committee suggest the strategy, planning, execution and the experience gained by FCI in moving the foodgrains across the country in times of crisis situations arising out of pandemics like Covid 19 should be well documented and be shared with other organisations involved in managing logistics in crisis situations.”

1.6 The Ministry in its action taken reply has stated as under:-

“In the wake of economic disruptions caused by the unprecedented outbreak of COVID-19 in the country in early 2020, the Government in March 2020 had announced the distribution of additional free-of-cost foodgrains (Rice/Wheat) to about 80 Crore National Food Security Act (NFSA) beneficiaries at the scale of 5 Kg per person per month under the PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY), over and above the regular monthly NFSA foodgrains i.e. regular entitlements of their ration cards. Thereby, effectively doubling the quantity of monthly foodgrains being normally delivered to the NFSA households, so that the poor, needy and the vulnerable households/beneficiaries do not suffer on account of non-availability of adequate foodgrains during the times of economic crisis.

As a result of above PMGKAY scheme, FCI had to conduct additional movement of foodgrains, and was required to move around 600 LMT per year as against about 400 LMT per year in pre-pandemic era.

Strategy and Planning of FCI in moving of foodgrains during COVID period

Food Corporation of India had to perform the herculean task of ensuring that foodgrains remain available for NFSA and PMGKAY in every nook and corner of the country, despite restriction and shortage of manpower due to Covid and ensuing lockdown.

- First and the most, important task was to make available foodgrain all over the country by moving the stock from surplus states to deficit states. For rice; the surplus states were Punjab, Haryana, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh; whereas for wheat, the surplus states were Punjab, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh. It was necessary that the sufficient stock remained available in these states, for this even in the lockdown conditions procurement was undertaken.
- Further, various stakeholders in the movement operations like staff, labours, contractors were to be motivated to work under these difficult situations. In the era of lockdown, when work from home had become a necessity, movement operations and rake loading required the availability of manpower at the workplace, for this it was necessary that the manpower planning be done efficiently. This included motivating the staff, labour and personnel of contractors.
- Further it was necessary that sufficient persons are available for rake loading operations which could be arranged by shifting of labours. Matter was required to be taken up with state govt. / district administration for allowing the mobilization of staff.

- Necessary steps were also required for ensuring safety of person by providing them with the necessary equipment like mask, sanitizer etc.
- It was also necessary to take railways on board to supply the increased number of rakes and regular coordination with railways was required for the same.

Result of Execution in moving of foodgrains during COVID period.

Sufficient foodgrain were positioned at FCI warehouses across the length and breadth of the country to meet the demand of NFSA, OWS as well as PMGKAY. FCI successfully moved foodgrain to every nook and corner of the country during pandemic period (despite restrictions of centre & state government) in close coordination with Indian Railways.

The collaboration and coordination of DFPD, FCI, State/UT administration, Indian railways resulted into :

- Increased allocation: Annual allocation of foodgrains to states increased from 600 LMT to 1100 LMT necessitating spurt in logistics arrangement.
- Increased annual movement: against the normal average annual movement of 400 LMT, FCI has moved around 600 LMT in 2020-21 and 2021-22 to meet the enhanced demand of foodgrains despite restrictions imposed during lockdown.
- Increased rake movement: against the normal average of about 940 rakes per month, FCI moved around 1450 rakes per month.
- Record number of rakes in a single day: a record number of 102 rakes were loaded in a single day i.e., on 22nd April 2020 which was widely appreciated.

Due to collaboration of railways, FCI was able to move around 500 more rakes per month as against around 940 rakes per month during non-PMGKAY period. During the Covid period, FCI moved 611.61 LMT of foodgrains through 18087 rakes during 2021-22 & 594.51 LMT through 17418 rakes during 2020-21 whereas during the non- Covid period, FCI moved 389.18 LMT of foodgrains through 10523 rakes during 2019-20 and 383.43 LMT through 10550 rakes during 2018-19 i.e. percentage increased in movement of foodgrains during Covid-19 period as compared to non-covid period is 56%.

On an average, daily rakes movement during 2021-22 was 50 rakes and in 2020-21 was 48 rakes, which was 29 rakes in both 2019-20 and 2018-19.

Experiencing Various Challenges & Successfully Overcoming the Same:

I. FCI successfully executed the herculean task of supplying foodgrain under various Gol schemes to such a large population of the country, that too amid the covid-19 restrictions owing to the presence of

extensive and established TPDS infrastructure in place. To distribute the grain, the central and State/UT governments relied on its robust logistical network, which involved the use of massive rail & road transportation network supported by air & sea logistics. Last mile gaps in some non-motorable, hilly/difficult terrains were covered through use of horses/mules and even helicopters of the Indian air force and army. The experience of States/UTs serving remote and inaccessible areas through airdrops, inland water transportation, use of horses/mules, etc. came of great use in ensuring timely supply of food grains all over the country including remote and inaccessible areas.

II. Nationwide lockdown was announced, many hindrances such as shortage of labourers, truck drivers, loading-unloading supervisory as well as ground staff were faced suddenly. These issues were tackled at all levels and top management of FCI chalked out a comprehensive plan. A high-level committee was formed which monitored the stock position, movement of rakes, requirement of foodgrains, problems faced by field offices for immediate resolution etc. Many immediate steps were taken such as work force involved in assignments related to back office, was allowed work from home, deployment of ground staff on rotation basis, requesting railways and other institutions involved in movement operations to cooperate.

III. First and foremost requirement was the availability of sufficient number of rakes, for which railways also rose to the occasion and supplied the required number of rakes. Further, it was also ensured by the railway that rakes reaches the destination on time avoiding enroute delays. Railways were keen to supply maximum rakes for rail movement and many facilities such as reducing demurrage charges, increasing free time for loading/unloading, removal of centres/route restrictions, loading of rakes outside circuit, extension of non-levy of dynamic pricing on food grains during busy season etc were provided. This support of railways was utmost necessary due to which FCI was able to move 102 rakes on a single day. Many new rail heads of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh were operated.

IV. The major challenge was noticed when PMGKAY was extended along with OMSS(D). With extension of PMGKAY, the requirement of not only rail, but road movement also got increased resulting into less availability of stocks on many adjacent places from where road movement was not possible. FCI compensated that with rail movement.

V. Another challenge was that since all staff was not working from office, the flow of necessary information got hampered which resulted into non-availability of authentic data even for day-to-day movement operations. Apart from this, the exact stock position pan India on daily basis was required for apprising the same to FCI Hqrs. and DFPD.

To address this issue FCI turned to digital platforms, one of the commonly used tools available was Google sheet which came handy and a Google form linked to the same was generated. This helped a lot because the reach of official computer system pan India was difficult to be ensured and the ownership/authenticity of data through telephonic conversations could not be ensured. The Google sheet/form resolved this issue as the data could be fed through mobile from any place, at any time and the authenticity/ownership could also be known. The time of any modification/revision in data could also be known. The formats in which the data was to be supplied could be modified as and when required. The reports could be shared any time over phone through Whatsapp.

The data collected through Google forms were compiled to prepare region-wise daily stock position and sufficiency of stocks. the same was shared with high level coordination committee of FCI and subsequently with DFPD. Further, a team was appointed to collect data regarding truck/rake wise loading/unloading from all regions and share with high level co- ordination committee. This information channel helped in precise planning of movement on monthly, weekly, and daily basis and in turn fulfilling the demands of deficit regions precisely.

VI. Another IT tool became the part of office work culture, video conferencing. This was extensively used and through this officers/officials interacted extensively for immediate resolution of issues.

VII One another challenge was the coordinating different stakeholders/manpower, as rake loading is very labour intensive operation and involves FCI staff, labour, contract labours, contractors, truck drivers etc. to ensure health & hygiene of each workforce involved in rake loading FCI introduced many remedial actions like providing sanitizer, gloves, mask etc to protect oneself from infections to all staff, labours etc

Staff and labour were motivated to work at railheads and the staff and labour of FCI magnificently rose to the situation and worked day and night to ensure loading stocks. During initial phase of covid-19, when all country was struggling with the supply of sufficient protective gears, FCI officers arranged the same. Another steps taken to safeguard the labour and staff was to sanitize all the trucks/wagons before loading. All efforts were made for maximizing use of available resource with safety & security of workforce working at railhead during the pandemic. Special permission for transit of FCI staff/labour and vehicles was sought from state administration and district administration so that loading of rakes is not affected. FCI labourers were moved out on temporary basis from one state to another state to meet out the movement/PDS requirements and other exigencies. Arrangements were made in depots so that the labourers involved in loading can stay overnight. To further motivate the staff and labour working in these difficult situations, DFPD and FCI announced an ex-gratia benefit for personnel losing life due to covid. The

special part of this scheme was that it involved the contractual labours also in its ambit.

Result of Coordinated Efforts :

State governments also extended full support in these difficult times to distribute the grain, the central and State/UT governments relied on its robust logistical network, which involved the use of massive rail & road transportation network supported by air & sea logistics with last mile gaps in some non-motorable, hilly/difficult terrains being plugged through use of horses/mules to even helicopters of the Indian air force and army.

Thus, with the coordinated efforts of all involved, DFPD and FCI was able to ensure timely supply of foodgrains under PMGKAY making it a success and also ensured:

- Food security for crores of vulnerable individuals and families across India.
- Mitigated the risk of starvation-related deaths by improving the nutritional intake of vulnerable populations.
- Provided much-needed relief to the economically disadvantaged sections of society by reducing their financial burden.
- Contributed in maintaining social stability during the crisis.
- Mitigated mass migration from urban to rural areas by providing food assistance to those in need.
- Targeted vulnerable sections of society, including daily wage earners, migrant workers, and marginalized communities. By including these groups, the scheme aimed to promote social inclusion and ensure that no one was left behind during the crisis

1.7 The Committee, *inter-alia* had suggested that the strategy, planning, execution and the experience gained by FCI in moving the foodgrains across the country in times of crisis situations arising out of pandemics like Covid-19 should be well documented and be shared with other organisations involved in managing logistics in such difficult situations. The Department in their Action Taken Reply has precisely submitted the strategy and planning of FCI in moving of foodgrains during COVID period. The Ministry has also shared the results of execution in moving of foodgrains during COVID period, experience of various challenges/hindrances faced by them and the way they successfully overcome the same. The Committee, while reiterating their original recommendation desire the Department to document/preserve the whole process of planning to execution and experiences in moving foodgrains during Covid period at the earliest as well as share the same with other Departments/organizations for reference and guidance purposes.

CHAPTER II

OBSERVATIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Sl. No. 1)

2.1 With a view to prevent and minimize the loss of lives during Covid-19 crisis, restrictions on the movement of the people and also on different forms of transportation, had to be imposed in the country like in many other countries. This unprecedented situation adversely impacted the livelihoods and the consequent food security of the large number of people especially the disadvantaged sections. It is in this context, the Government had rolled out a scheme, aptly named “Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)” under which additional 5 Kg food grains per person per month, were provided to eligible beneficiaries free-of-cost, over and above their normal NFSA entitlements. The total number of the beneficiaries under the scheme stood at 81.35 crore. The Committee are of the view that the scheme showed the abiding commitment of the Govt to the people who are in distress due to crisis situation arising out of Covid19 and is a step in the right direction. The Committee, therefore, appreciate the timely intervention by the Government by launching the PMGKAY at the time when it was required the most.

Reply of the Government

2.2 The Committee has admired the efforts for implementation of PM-GKAY, which showed the abiding commitment of the Government to the people who were in distress due to crisis situation arose out of Covid-19 and is a step in the right direction. Therefore, no further action is required on account of DFPD. DFPD will continue to work towards its commitments.

[Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public
Distribution (Department of Food & Public Distribution)]

O.M. No. 8-8/2023-BP-III(e-383749) Dated the 03.11.2023]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 2)

2.3 The Committee note that PMGKAY completed 28-month period over 7 phases starting from April 2020 till December, 2022 with an earmarked total financial outlay of approximately Rs. 3.91 Lakh Crore, and total food grains allocation of nearly 1,118 Lakh Metric Tons (LMTs). During all the seven phases of the scheme, out of total allocation of 1,118 LMTs, 1037 LMTs food grains were lifted and, 1015 LMTs were distributed i.e., 97.88% of the total lifted quantity. Similarly, as per provisional data, out of the planned outlay of Rs. 3.91 lakh crore for subsidy under the scheme for the aforementioned seven phases, an amount of Rs. 3.42 lakh crore amounting to 87.5% of the planned outlay was incurred as per the reply submitted by the department vide their communication dated 28 July, 2023. The Committee are glad to note that the performance of the PMGKAY in both physical and financial terms has been outstanding. The Committee appreciate the efforts put in by the Department of Food and Public Distribution and also Food Corporation of India (FCI) in making the scheme a grand success which went a long way in addressing the food grains requirements of the poor throughout the country during the extremely difficult period of Covid-19 period. The Committee suggest the strategy, planning, execution and the experience gained by FCI in moving the foodgrains across the country in times of crisis situations arising out of pandemics like Covid 19 should be well documented and be shared with other organisations involved in managing logistics in crisis situations.

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- IV. The major challenge was noticed when PMGKAY was extended along with OMSS(D). With extension of PMGKAY, the requirement of not only rail, but road movement also got increased resulting into less availability of stocks on many adjacent places from where road movement was not possible. FCI compensated that with rail movement.
- V. Another challenge was that since all staff was not working from office, the flow of necessary information got hampered which resulted into non-availability of authentic data even for day-to-day movement operations. Apart from this, the exact stock position pan India on daily basis was required for apprising the same to FCI Hqrs. and DFPD.

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- VII One another challenge was the coordinating different stakeholders/manpower, as rake loading is very labour intensive operation and involves FCI staff, labour, contract labours, contractors, truck drivers etc. to ensure health & hygiene of each workforce involved in

rake loading FCI introduced many remedial actions like providing sanitizer, gloves, mask etc to protect oneself from infections to all staff, labours etc

Staff and labour were motivated to work at railheads and the staff and labour of FCI magnificently rose to the situation and worked day and night to ensure loading stocks. During initial phase of covid-19, when all country was struggling with the supply of sufficient protective gears, FCI officers arranged the same. Another steps taken to safeguard the labour and staff was to sanitize all the trucks/wagons before loading. All efforts were made for maximizing use of available resource with safety & security of workforce working at railhead during the pandemic. Special permission for transit of FCI staff/labour and vehicles was sought from state administration and district administration so that loading of rakes is not affected. FCI labourers were moved out on temporary basis from one state to another state to meet out the movement/PDS requirements and other exigencies. Arrangements were made in depots so that the labourers involved in loading can stay overnight. To further motivate the staff and labour working in these difficult situations, DFPD and FCI announced an ex-gratia benefit for personnel losing life due to covid. The special part of this scheme was that it involved the contractual labours also in its ambit.

Result of Coordinated Efforts :

State governments also extended full support in these difficult times to distribute the grain, the central and State/UT governments relied on its robust logistical network, which involved the use of massive rail & road transportation network supported by air & sea logistics with last mile gaps in some non-motorable, hilly/difficult terrains being plugged through use of horses/mules to even helicopters of the Indian air force and army.

Thus, with the coordinated efforts of all involved, DFPD and FCI was able to ensure timely supply of foodgrains under PMGKAY making it a success and also ensured:

- Food security for crores of vulnerable individuals and families across India.
- Mitigated the risk of starvation-related deaths by improving the nutritional intake of vulnerable populations.
- Provided much-needed relief to the economically disadvantaged sections of society by reducing their financial burden.
- Contributed in maintaining social stability during the crisis.
- Mitigated mass migration from urban to rural areas by providing food assistance to those in need.
- Targeted vulnerable sections of society, including daily wage earners, migrant workers, and marginalized communities. By including these groups, the scheme aimed to promote social inclusion and ensure that no one was left behind during the crisis

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 1.7 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 3)

2.5 The Committee observe from the data furnished by the Department that till December, 2022, the food grains under the NFSA were being distributed @ Rs.3, 2 and 1 per kg for rice, wheat and coarse grains respectively and additional food grains under the PMGKAY were being distributed free of cost. They further noted that the Government, in order to remove the financial burden and to ensure nationwide uniformity and effective implementation of the Act, has decided to provide food grains free of cost to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households and Priority Households (PHH) beneficiaries under NFSA, for a period of one year beginning from 1 January 2023. The Committee learn that two food subsidy schemes have been subsumed under New Integrated Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) under this scheme Free foodgrain is being distributed through Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) from 1st January 2023. Under this scheme, the cost towards intra-State movement & handling of foodgrains and fair price shop dealers' margin is shared between the Central and State Government as per the provisions of the Food Security (Assistance to State Governments) Rules, 2015 as amended from time to time. The Committee have no doubt that the New Integrated Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) will go a long way in fulfilling the foodgrains requirements of people of the country. They further appreciate the Department for continuing the scheme in new integrated form empathizing with the needs of the beneficiaries.

Reply of the Government

2.6 The Committee has admired the Department for continuing the PMGKAY scheme in new integrated form. Therefore, no specific further action is required on account of DFPD. DFPD will continue their efforts for effective implementation of Government's food security schemes.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 4)

2.7 It is heartening to note that the Department of Food and Public Distribution and Food Corporation of India (FCI) have made tireless efforts during the difficult two years 2020-21 and 2021-22 in ensuring the foodgrains reach to the poorest of the poor. The enormous amount of logistics involved in the efforts as reflected in the increased (i) movement of foodgrains at 600 LMT as against the average movement of 400LMT; and, (ii) rake movement of 1450 per month as against 940 rakes per month, to lift the increased allocations to various states /UTs during the afore mentioned two years, is a testimony to the commitment and dedication of the Department and FCI towards service of the nation in times of crisis. The Committee believe that without the dedicated efforts of the Department and FCI, ensuring food security, mitigating starvation related deaths, maintaining social stability, would not have been possible during the unprecedented public health emergencies.

Reply of the Government

2.8 The Committee has commended the role of the Department and FCI for ensuring food security during the unprecedented public health emergencies.

- In fact total food grain quantity transported during Non-Covid period in FY 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 was 383.43 & 389.18 (In LMT) and rakes (inter+intra) is 10550 & 10523 respectively whereas during Covid-19 period in FY 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 is total quantity was 594.51 & 611.61 (In LMT) and rakes (inter+intra) is 17418 & 18087 respectively.

[Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public
Distribution (Department of Food & Public Distribution)
O.M. No. 8-8/2023-BP-III(e-383749) Dated the 03.11.2023]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 5)

2.9 The Committee note that the Department has engaged 13 Monitoring Institutions (MIs) of repute to undertake concurrent evaluation of the implementation of National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) in all States/UTs for 03 years (2020-23). The questionnaires devised for the evaluation exercise include questions on the receipt of free foodgrains under PMGKAY. As per the reports of the first two years (2020-22) submitted by the MIs, it is inferred that most of the surveyed households in all the states/UTs received full entitlements (5 kg food grains) free of under PMGKAY. The Committee also note that survey reports of the MIs which are available in the public domain shows that 98% of the beneficiaries were satisfied with the quantity and quality of food grains provided

to them. The Committee appreciate the Govt for enabling the Department and FCI to supply quality foodgrains during the Covid-19 crisis which prevented loss of many precious lives. The Committee also appreciate the Govt. for imparting transparency to the entire exercise by putting in public domain the comments of the beneficiaries about the quality and sufficiency of the foodgrains.

Reply of the Government

2.10 The Committee has acknowledged the efforts for imparting transparency to the evaluation exercise being undertaken by the engaged Monitoring Institutions. As such no specific further action is required on account of DFPD.

[Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public
Distribution (Department of Food & Public Distribution)
O.M. No. 8-8/2023-BP-III(e-383749) Dated the 03.11.2023]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 6)

2.11 The Committee are happy to note that the Department/FCI was able to deliver food grains amid the COVID-19 restrictions even in far flung areas of the country and was also able to pull off the herculean task of feeding such a large population residing in all corners of the country irrespective of terrain and topography. Further, the Committee praise the fact that the extensive TPDS infrastructure, strong logistical network involving all modes of surface transport i.e., rail and road transportation supported by air & sea logistics cumulatively helped covering last mile gaps even in some non-motorable, hilly/difficult terrains. Use of unconventional transport or mode of conveyances like horses/mules for reaching out far flung and most difficult terrain areas on one hand and deploying modern modes of transport like in-land water transportation and even helicopters of the Indian Air Force and Army, on the other hand to ensure regular supply of food grains shows the comprehensive approach of the Department towards their commitment for ensuring food security. The Committee not only praise but also highly commend the role, response and coordination of the Department with other agencies during the imperative situation which has set an example for future rejoinder in similar situations.

Reply of the Government

2.12 The Committee has appreciated the role, response and coordination of the Department during this crucial COVID-19 situation. As such no specific further action is required on account of DFPD.

[Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public
Distribution (Department of Food & Public Distribution)
O.M. No. 8-8/2023-BP-III(e-383749) Dated the 03.11.2023]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 7)

2.13 The Committee strongly believe that one of the reasons for resounding success of the PMGKAY is the campaigns launched to generate awareness about the scheme across different media - print, electronic (radio and TV) social media such as Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, etc. The Committee are happy to note that these campaigns were also carried out in 10 regional languages to have maximum impact. The Committee also noted that installation of creative tin plates at Fair Price Shops (FPSs), display of the banners at high footfall locations such as petrol pumps/ CNG stations, Post offices, railway stations, etc. spread across 36 states/ UTs. The very fact that 98% of the beneficiaries have expressed their satisfaction is reflective of the success of intensive and extensive awareness campaigns carried out about the scheme.

Reply of the Government

2.14 The Committee has admired the mass awareness campaigns of PM-GKAY conducted by DFPD. As such, no specific further action is required on account of DFPD.

[Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public
Distribution (Department of Food & Public Distribution)
O.M. No. 8-8/2023-BP-III(e-383749) Dated the 03.11.2023]

Recommendation (Sl. No.8)

2.15 The Committee note that the Government have included coarse grains for distribution under PMGKAY scheme, as they are highly nutritive, nonacid forming, gluten free and possess dietary properties. About 5.8 lakh metric ones of Coarsegrains such as jowar, ragiand bajra have been distributed to the beneficiaries in six states namely Karnataka, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala. The Committee are happy to note that coarse grains are included in the distribution under PMGKAY and suggest suitable steps be taken to encourage the consumption of coarse grains.

Reply of the Government

2.16 Coarse grains are allocated under National Food Security Act, 2013. From 1st January, 2023 the aforesaid allocation is being made at free of cost for one year. The allocation of approved quantity of Coarse grains for distribution under PDS is made by this Department in lieu of equal quantity of wheat/rice (as

requested by State) while ensuring that the overall quantity of rice, wheat and Coarse grains has to be within the upper ceiling fixed in respect of each State/UT under NFSA.

2. The revised guidelines for Coarse Grains has been issued in year 2021/22 to obviate difficulties being faced by the State Government and to increase the procurement of coarse grains, distribution periods enhanced to 6-10 months from earlier period 3 months.

3. Provision of inter-state transportation of surplus millets through FCI is also incorporated to cater for advance demand placed by consuming state before the start of procurement.

4. A provision of advance subsidy as being given in case of distribution of wheat/rice has been added in the guidelines of procurement, allocation, distribution and disposal of coarse grains, which would ease the financial burden on the States/UTs.

5. Increase in Administrative charges on acquisition stage for coarse grains procurement from 1% to 2% of MSP, to incentivize procurement of millets.

6. To widen scope of procurement of coarse grains/millets, it has been decided to allow the procurement of following minor/pseudo millets:

Minor Millet- Foxtail Millet(Kangani/Kakun), Proso Millet(Cheena), Kodo Millet(Kodo) ,little millet(Kutki)

Pseudo Millets-(Black-wheat (kuttu) and Ameranthus(Chaulai).

This arrangement has been put in place for the 3 years at costs, based on the MSP of Ragi.

[Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public
Distribution (Department of Food & Public Distribution)
O.M. No. 8-8/2023-BP-III(e-383749) Dated the 03.11.2023]

CHAPTER III

**OBSERVATIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE
DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S
REPLIES**

-NIL-

CHAPTER IV

**OBSERVATIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH
REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN
ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE**

-NIL-

CHAPTER V

**OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH
THE FINAL REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT
ARE STILL AWAITED**

-NIL-

**NEW DELHI;
7 December, 2023
16 Agrahayana, 1945 (Saka)**

**LOCKET CHATTERJEE,
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (2023-2024)
HELD ON THURSDAY, 7TH DECEMBER, 2023**

The Committee sat from 1500 hrs. to 1530 hrs. in Committee Room No. 4,
Extension to Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Smt.Locket Chatterjee - Chairperson

Members

Lok Sabha

2. Dr. Farooq Abdullah
3. Shri Shafiqur Rahman Barq
4. Shri Anil Firojiya
5. Shri Rajendra Dhedya Gavit
6. Shri Khagen Murmu
7. Shri Ganesan Selvam
8. Dr. Amar Singh
9. Smt. Kavita Singh
10. Shri Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka
11. Shri Vaithilingam Ve.

Rajya Sabha

12. Shri C.Ve Shanmugam

SECRETARIAT

1. Dr. Ram Raj Rai - Joint Secretary
2. Dr. Vatsala Joshi - Director
3. Dr. Mohit Rajan - Deputy Secretary
4. Shri Dong Lianthang Tonsing - Deputy Secretary

2. At the outset, Hon'ble Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee convened for consideration and adoption of the following Draft Reports of the Committee:

(i) xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx ;

(ii) Thirty Fourth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the Twenty Eighth Report of the Committee (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on the subject 'Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana' (PMGKAY) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution);

(iii) xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx ;and

(iv) xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx.

3. Thereafter, the Committee took up for consideration the above mentioned Draft Reports of the Committee.

4. After deliberations, the Committee adopted the above mentioned Draft Reports without any amendments/modifications.

5. The Committee then authorized Hon'ble Chairperson to finalize and present the aforesaid Reports.

The Committee then adjourned.

xxxx Matter does not relate to the Report.

APPENDIX II

(Vide Para No. 4 of Introduction of the Report)

ANALYSIS OF THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE TWENTY EIGHTH REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (2023-24)

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

(i) Total number of Recommendations: 08

(ii) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government :

Para Nos. :- 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 & 8

(Chapter – II, Total - 08)
Percentage : 100%

(iii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies received from the Government

Para No.:- NIL

(Chapter – III, Total - 0)
Percentage : 0.00%

(iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration:

Para No. :- NIL

(Chapter – IV, Total -0)
Percentage : 0.00%

(v) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which the interim replies of the Government have been received.

Para No.:- NIL

(Chapter – V, Total - 0)
Percentage : 0.00%