

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

**LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO.69  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024**

**PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM**

**\*69. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR RINKU:  
SHRI SANJAY SETH:**

**Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION** उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री **be pleased to state:**

- (a) the salient features of the Public Distribution System (PDS);**
- (b) the details of the amount sanctioned, allocated and utilized in the last four years in Punjab, Jharkhand and West Bengal under this scheme, district-wise;**
- (c) the details of the target set and achievements made so far under the schedule along with its response within the country especially in the above said States;**
- (d) whether the Government is planning to reform the PDS and storage sector within the country; and**
- (e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?**

**A N S W E R  
MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY, CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD  
& PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND TEXTILES  
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)**

---

**(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.**

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 69 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 07.02.2024 IN THE LOK SABHA.**

**(a): The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) ensures coverage upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population for receiving foodgrains (rice, wheat & coarsegrains). Eligible families comprise Priority Households (PHH) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. The Priority Households are entitled to receive 5 kg of foodgrains per person per month and the families covered under the AAY receive 35 kg of foodgrains per month per family. Foodgrains under PMGKAY are being distributed to eligible beneficiaries free of cost.**

**Keeping in view welfare of the beneficiaries of PMGKAY in terms of accessibility, affordability and availability of food grains for the poor and to maintain uniformity across the States, the Government has decided to continue to provide free food grains to about 81.35 crore beneficiaries (i.e. Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households and Priority Households (PHH) beneficiaries) under the PMGKAY for a period of five years with effect from 1st January, 2024, with an estimated financial outlay of Rs. 11.80 lakh crore totally to be borne by Central Government.**

**(b): The Government of India allocates subsidized foodgrains to States/UTs for monthly distribution to eligible beneficiaries. The State-wise details of allocation and Offtake of foodgrains for Punjab, Jharkhand and West Bengal from 2020-21 onwards, are at Annexure. The district-wise data is not maintained.**

**(c): Allocation of foodgrains to States/UTs under the PMGKAY is made on the basis of State/UT-wise coverage of population determined by the erstwhile Planning Commission (now NITI Aayog) based on the data of Large Sample Surveys on Household Consumer Expenditure published by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) in 2011-12, identification of beneficiaries by States/UTs within the coverage and foodgrains entitlement prescribed under the Act. The Act further provides that if on the above basis, annual foodgrains allocation to any State/UT is lower than the average annual offtake during 2010-11 to 2012-13 under erstwhile normal Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), the same shall be protected and the State shall be allocated foodgrains as specified in Schedule IV. As per Schedule-IV of the Act governing PMGKAY, the States/UTs are entitled to 549.26 LMT of foodgrains per annum. Increase/Decrease in allocation based on inclusion/exclusion of beneficiaries under the Act is a continuous process.**

**.....2/-**

**(d) & (e): Due to continuous technology driven reforms in Public Distribution System (PDS), a significant progress has been achieved at the national level in terms of 100% digitization of ration cards, online allocation modules for generation of monthly foodgrain allocation orders up to the Fair Price Shops (FPS), installation of electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) devices, computerisation of supply chain management, online grievance redressal systems and initiation of transparency portals. Backed by the sustained technological progress, the Department had implemented One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) plan in August 2019 with 4 states and by the end of June 2022 ONORC was operational across the country.**

**Presently, this Department is implementing the new Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) - "Scheme for Modernization and Reforms through Technology in Public Distribution System (SMART-PDS)" for the development/implementation of advanced integrated supply chain software in States/UTs. Under this scheme, provisions have been made to replace existing Servers/Data Centers by leveraging cloud infrastructure.**

**The scheme also has provision to continue the support of various application modules, portals, dashboards, integration with other ministries/departments, etc. developed under erstwhile end-to-end Computerization and Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (IM-PDS) schemes. This also includes the continuation of Data Centre Services procured under IMPDS covering Central System and PDS applications of State/UTs.**

**The scheme envisages not only introducing the major technological reforms but also strengthening the technology-driven infrastructure in the Public Distribution System (PDS) for transformative change in the entire PDS ecosystem. The scheme is to be implemented in collaboration with all States/UTs, with a total cost of Rs. 349.9 Crore for a period of 3 years from 2023-24 to 2025-26.**

**The SMART-PDS offers a software suite along with advanced features and functionalities for States / UTs to leverage future-ready IT Tools for enabling the modernization of Supply Chain Management at their level.**

**SMART-PDS intends to continue to sustain the systematic information technology-led reforms brought in the functioning of Public Distribution System (PDS) operations by overcoming the State level of technological limitations with respect to Server, Software & Technical Manpower, leveraging cloud infrastructure and institutionalizing an integrated Central System covering all PDS related operations across the country.**

**Food Corporation of India has undertaken various initiatives to reform storage sector such as under:**

- (i) Phasing out of Covered and Plinth (CAP) Storage**
- (ii) Third party assessment of warehouses by FCI from Quality Council of India**
- (iii) Mechanization of Warehouse operations**
- (iv) Construction of SILO's under PPP Mode**
- (v) Warehousing Development Regulatory Authority (WDRA) Certification.**

\*\*\*\*

## Annexure

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF STARRED QUESTION No. 69  
FOR ANSWER ON 07.02.2024 IN THE LOK SABHA

(in Thousand Tons)

Year	Foodgrain	Jharkhand		Punjab		West Bengal	
		Allocation	Offtake	Allocation	Offtake	Allocation	Offtake
2020-21	Rice	1542.58	1565.61	0.00	0.00	1607.95	1595.30
	Wheat	196.93	194.98	870.12	466.19	2362.67	2346.26
	Total	1739.51	1760.58	870.12	466.19	3970.62	3941.56
2021-22	Rice	1034.94	924.82	0.00	0.00	1607.95	1548.59
	Wheat	689.96	576.84	870.12	879.69	2362.67	2268.44
	Total	1724.90	1501.66	870.12	879.69	3970.62	3817.03
2022-23	Rice	1337.59	1301.15	0.00	0.00	2253.30	2464.55
	Wheat	406.14	406.86	870.12	659.74	1717.32	1662.79
	Total	1743.73	1708.01	870.12	659.74	3970.62	4127.34
2023-24 #	Rice	1400.82	930.38	0.00	0.00	2382.37	1889.20
	Wheat	350.20	238.47	870.12	412.20	1588.25	1129.59
	Total	1751.02	1168.84	870.12	412.20	3970.62	3018.79

Note (#) Data of offtake of foodgrains for 2023-24 is upto January,24.

\*\*\*\*\*