

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1444
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31ST JULY, 2024

ANTYODAYA ANNA YOJANA

1444 DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY:

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

- (a) the details of the Antyodaya Anna Yojana;
- (b) the details of the funds sanctioned, allocated and utilized under this yojana within Tamil Nadu during the last three years;
- (c) the details of the criteria fixed by the Government to get the benefits of this yojana;
- (d) the details of the targets set and achievements made thereunder so far;
- (e) whether the cases of ineligible people getting benefits from this yojana has come to the notice of the Government; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise along with the action taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(a): The Antyodaya Anna Yojana(AAY) was introduced by the Government in December, 2000, for 1 crore poorest of poor families across the country to be identified from amongst the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in all States/UTs at that time. Since then, the coverage under AAY has been expanded three times i.e. during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06, covering additional 50 lakh households each time. Thus, increasing the total coverage under AAY up to 2.50 crore families. Under the TPDS, foodgrains were provided at subsidized prices upto December, 2022. However, w.e.f. 1st January, 2023, foodgrains under the Act are being distributed to eligible beneficiaries free of cost under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana.

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(b): The Government of India allocates subsidized foodgrains to States/UTs for monthly distribution to all NFSA ration card holders including AAY households. The details of foodgrains allocated to Tamil Nadu during last three years as well as current year under AAY scheme, are as under:

(in Thousand Tons)

2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25(Upto June, 2024)	
Allocation	Offtake	Allocation	Offtake	Allocation	Offtake	Allocation	Offtake
783.13	612.21	783.13	582.33	782.86	583.37	195.69	104.92

Further, the details of fund released under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme – “ Assistance to State Agencies for intra- state movement of foodgrains and FPS dealers’ margin under NFSA” to the State of Tamil Nadu in the last three years is as follows:

(Fig. in Rs. crore)

Year	Amount released
2021-22	131.65
2022-23	543.01
2023-24	145.90
Total	820.56

(c): As per the guidelines issued by the Government, the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households are to be identified by States/Union Territories (UTs) as per the following criteria:

- (i) Landless agriculture labourers, marginal farmers, rural artisans /craftsmen, such as potters, tanners, weavers, blacksmiths, carpenters, slum dwellers and persons earning their livelihood on daily basis in the informal sector like porters, coolies, rickshaw pullers, hand cart pullers, fruit and flower sellers, snake charmers, rag pickers, cobblers, destitute and other similar categories in both rural and urban areas;
- (ii) Households headed by widows or terminally ill persons/disabled persons/ persons aged 60 years or more with no assured means of subsistence or societal support;
- (iii) Widows or terminally ill persons or disabled persons or persons aged 60 years or more or single women or single men with no family or societal support or assured means of subsistence;
- (iv) All primitive tribal households;
- (v) All eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families of HIV positive persons.

(d): Presently, against the ceiling of 2.5 crore AAY households under NFSA, about 2.37 Crore AAY households are covered by the States/UTs in the country.

(e) & (f): The Public Distribution System (PDS) is operated under joint responsibilities of the Central and State/UT Governments. The operational responsibilities including identification of eligible households/beneficiaries, issuance of Ration Cards etc. rest with the respective State/UT Government. Further, as per clause 3 (13) of the TPDS Control Order, the State Government shall regularly review the list of the eligible households for the purpose of deletion of ineligible households or inclusion of eligible households upto the ceiling limit fixed for every State/UT.

Since the TPDS is operated under joint responsibility, as and when complaints for any State/UT are received in this Department from any source regarding any irregularities in the functioning of the TPDS, these complaints are forwarded to the concerned State/UT Government for inquiry and appropriate action at their end. An offence committed in violation of the provisions of PDS (Control) Order, 2015 is liable for penal action under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Thus, the Order empowers State/UT Governments to take punitive action in case of contravention of relevant provisions of these Orders.
