

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2796  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2021

**IMPACT OF NFSA ON HUNGER ALLEVIATION**

2796 SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:

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

- (a) whether Government has assessed the impact of National Food Security Act (NFSA) on hunger alleviation since its inception;
- (b) if so, the details of quality foodgrains provided to rural and urban population during the lockdown period;
- (c) whether Government has taken any measures to distribute overflowing foodgrains in various godowns of Food Corporation of India (FCI) to the people under poverty line; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**A N S W E R**  
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD &  
PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
**(SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO)**

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(a): The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) is being implemented in all the States/Union Territories, on an all India basis with a maximum coverage of 81.35 crore thus addressing the hunger alleviation of the bottom 67% of the population at 2011 census. The Act provides for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity. It marks a paradigm shift in the approach to food security from welfare to rights based approach. A system of concurrent evaluation has been put in place to assess the efficacy and impact of the National Food Security Act. 26 esteemed Institutions/ universities were engaged as Monitoring Institutions for conducting concurrent evaluation of the implementation of the NFSA in States/ Union Territories during 2018-20. The quarterly Reports were shared with the States/ Union Territories for any remedial action recommended by the monitoring Institutions. For the period 2020-23, 12 monitoring Institutions have been engaged to carry out concurrent evaluation in States/ Union Territories on the impact of the National Food Security Act.

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(b) to (d): Only good quality foodgrains free from insect infestation and conforming to food safety standards are issued through the Targeted Public Distribution System under the National Food Security Act as well as for other welfare schemes. During the lockdown period, special efforts were made by the Government to provide quality foodgrains to the NFSA beneficiaries over and above their normal entitlements by utilizing the surplus stocks available in the godowns of the Food Corporation of India. Under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojna (PMGKAY), additional allocation of foodgrains @ 5 kg per person per month free of cost was made by Government of India for all the beneficiaries covered under Targeted Public Distribution System (Antyodaya Anna Yojna & Priority Households) including those covered under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) for a period of 8 months i.e. April-November 2020. Accordingly, allocation of food-grain of approximately 322 Lakh Metric Tons (LMT) for these 8 months was made to States/Union Territories for free of cost distribution to approximately 80.43 Crore beneficiaries entailing financial implications of approximately Rs.122000 Crore. These benefits were provided to NFSA beneficiaries over and above their regular NFSA entitlements. Further, under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Package (ANBP), Government made allocation of about total 8 LMT of additional foodgrains covering all the States/Union Territories for migrants/stranded migrants, who were neither covered under National Food Security Act nor any State Scheme PDS Cards, @ 5 kg per person per month free of cost for a period of two months i.e. May & June, 2020.

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