

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1361
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30TH JULY, 2021

FOOD SECURITY UNDER PDS DURING COVID-19

1361 SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA:

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

- (a) the number of beneficiaries under the PDS for the years 2019-20 and 2020-21; and
- (b) the measures adopted by the Ministry to improve food security during COVID-19?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND CONSUMER
AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a): Under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), the addition and deletion of ration cards/beneficiaries is a continuous process. Accordingly, as per the data available, the number of NFSA beneficiaries in States/UTs was nearly 80.95 Crore in March 2020 and 79.33 Crore in March 2021 respectively through TPDS.

(b): With an objective to ameliorate the food security hardships of the poor, needy and vulnerable NFSA beneficiaries across the country, during Covid-19, the Department under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY) had allocated an extra 322 Lakh Metric Ton (LMT) foodgrains in the year 2020 and again about 278 LMT in 2021, for free of cost distribution to all NFSA beneficiaries over and above the distribution of regular subsidised NFSA foodgrains (i.e. 35 Kg per Antyodaya Anna Yojana family per month and 5 Kg per Priority Household beneficiary per month). Besides, another 2.74 LMT foodgrain were distributed free of cost to an average of about 2.74 Crore migrants/stranded migrants and persons without ration cards under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Scheme (ANBS) for the period of two months of May & June 2020.

Additionally, the One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) plan is empowering the NFSA beneficiaries in 33 States/UTs to lift their entitled foodgrains with flexibility from any nearby Fair Price Shop (FPS) of choice, by using their same existing ration card with biometric authentication.
