

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 552  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23<sup>RD</sup> JULY, 2021

**EXCLUSIONS UNDER PDS**

552 SHRI RIPUN BORA:  
SHRI G.C. CHANDRASHEKHAR:  
DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH:  
DR. AMEE YAJNIK:  
SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the number of vulnerable population excluded from the public distribution system;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government is aware that data system to calculate State-wise PDS coverage is outdated and leads to exclusion of crores of beneficiaries;
- (d) if so, whether Government is taking steps to update the database to identify beneficiaries;
- (e) if so, the plan detail to formulate specific steps to address the issue of those without ration cards and left out in second round of PMGKAY; and
- (f) details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

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

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**(a & b):** Under National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated in joint responsibilities of the Central and State/UT Governments wherein inter-alia the operational responsibilities for identification of eligible beneficiaries/households under the Act as per own criteria, issuance of ration cards and distribution of foodgrains to them from Fair Price Shops (FPSs) etc. lies with the respective State/UT Government. In addition to this, this Department had issued instructions to all States/UTs to cover the weaker and vulnerable sections of the society under NFSA, up to respective NFSA ceiling limit, for food security benefits.

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**(c) to (f):** The NFSA at per Census 2011 provides for a maximum coverage of 81.35 Crore persons. Presently, in all States/UTs, a total of about 80 Crore beneficiaries are receiving the NFSA benefits across the country as per the State/UT-wise prevailing coverage. Further, any change in the State/UT-wise coverage limit of beneficiaries depends in the revision of NFSA provisions. The database of all ration cards under NFSA are created and maintained in the respective State/UT ration card management system (RCMS).

Further, besides the regular subsidized NFSA foodgrains, the benefit of free foodgrains under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY) is available for all NFSA beneficiaries in the country at present. In addition to this, all concerned States/UTs were advised to cover maximum eligible persons up to the respective NFSA ceiling limits to ensure that maximum eligible beneficiaries get the benefit of both NFSA and PMGKAY foodgrains, as per the coverage limit mandated under the NFSA.

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