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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1540
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10TH DECEMBER, 2021

IMPLEMENTATION OF NFSA

1540 PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA:

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

(a) whether Government has finalised the list of eligible households under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) taking into account COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown of the economy resulting in dislocation of families, reverse migration and change in income level of many families in various States/UTs across the country; and

(b) whether Government has put in place measures to ensure strict compliance by States/UTs to the directions under Section 38 of the NFSA which prescribes disability as a separate criterion within the eligibility criteria to be identified by all States/UTs for inclusion of persons with disability?

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

(a): In view of the outbreak of Covid-19, Central Government has allocated foodgrains to all the States/UTs under PradhanMantriGaribKalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY), for distribution among beneficiaries of beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (i.e. Antyodaya Anna Yojana and Priority Category Households). These households are entitled to receive 5 kg of foodgrains (rice / wheat) per person per month, free of cost. The entitlement of foodgrains under PM-GKAY is in addition to their entitlement under NFSA (i.e. 35 kg of foodgrains per month per AAY household and 5 kg of foodgrains per person per month for Priority Households @ Rs.3/2/1 per kg for rice/ wheat/ coarsegrains). The scheme was for the period April to November, 2020 and May to November, 2021. The scheme has now been extended till March, 2022.

As part of the Economic measures (AtmaNirbhar Bharat), allocation of foodgrains, free of cost, had been made to all the States/Union Territories, for the month of May and June, 2020, for stranded migrants who are not covered under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) or any other State scheme PDS Cards. Such beneficiaries were eligible for 5 kg of foodgrains per person per month. Identification of such beneficiaries and distribution of foodgrains to them was the responsibility of concerned State Government or Union Territory Administration.

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Government of India in association with all States/Union Territories has started the implementation of nation-wide portability of the benefits under the NFSA i.e. the distribution of subsidized foodgrains to eligible households/ beneficiaries covered under NFSA, anywhere in the country through "One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC)" System by using the same/ existing ration card.

(b): The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) under the NFSA is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State Governments. The responsibility of identification of eligible beneficiaries under the Act rests with the State Government as per the provisions of the Act. However, directions under Section 38 of the NFSA have been issued to all the States/Union Territories to ensure that all the eligible disabled persons are covered under the Act. The compliance to these directions by the States/UTs is regularly monitored by the Central Government.

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