

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

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.34
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH DECEMBER, 2022

ALLOCATION OF FOODGRAINS UNDER PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

34 SHRI JOSE K. MANI:

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

- (a) whether Government has the data regarding State-wise allocation of foodgrains under the Public Distribution System (PDS) for the last two years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has any plans to promote the adoption of millets under PDS;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Government has any plans to increase the allocation of foodgrains to States under PDS; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY, CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC
DISTRIBUTION AND TEXTILES
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (f) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. *34 FOR ANSWER ON 09.12.2022 IN THE RAJYA SABHA REG. ALLOCATION OF FOODGRAINS UNDER PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

(a) & (b): The details of State-wise allocation of foodgrains under the Public Distribution System (PDS) during the last two years is at **Annexure-I**.

(c) & (d): As per National Food Security Act, 2013 subsidized foodgrains are provided to the States/UTs. Schedule-I of the Act envisages distribution of nutri-cereals/coarsegrain (like millets) at highly subsidized rate of Re.1 per kg.

Millets are already a part of Public Distribution System. As per guidelines for procurement, allocation, distribution and disposal of coarse grains, States are allowed to procure coarse grain (Jowar, Bajra, Maize & Ragi etc.) from farmers at Minimum Support Price (MSP) under central pool with the prior approval of Government of India. To encourage the farmers who are cultivating coarse grains/millets, Government of India has recently revised guidelines wherein the distribution period of these commodities has been increased to 6-10 months from the earlier period of 3 months. This would increase procurement and consumption of millets as the States would have more time for their distribution in Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)/ Other Welfare Scheme. At present, major millets (Jowar, Bajra and Ragi) are distributed through Public Distribution System in the country.

(e) & (f): NFSA, 2013 provides for coverage of about 75% of the rural and 50% of the urban population (67% of the total population of the country) for receiving highly subsidized foodgrains under TPDS, which at Census 2011 comes to about 81.35 crore. The coverage under the Act is substantially high to ensure that all the vulnerable and needy sections of the society get its benefit.

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Section 9 of the Act provides that the percentage coverage under the TPDS in rural and urban areas for each State shall be determined by the Central Government and the total number of persons to be covered in such rural and urban areas of the State shall be calculated on the basis of the population estimates as per the census of which the relevant figures have been published. The responsibility for identification of eligible beneficiaries under NFSA lies with the respective State/UT. All States/UTs have been advised to identify the eligible beneficiaries under NFSA upto their respective coverage limit.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) & (b) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.34 FOR ANSWER ON 09.12.2022 IN THE RAJYA SABHA REG. ALLOCATION OF FOODGRAINS UNDER PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Allocation of Foodgrains (RICE & WHEAT) from year 2020-21 to 2022-23 under TPDS/NFSA				
(In thousand tonnes)				
SL.NO	STATES/UTs	2020-21 Allocation	2021-22 Allocation	2022-23(Nov,22) Allocation
1	Andhra Pradesh	1871.84	1871.84	1247.90
2	Arunachal Pradesh	88.99	89.00	59.33
3	Assam	1694.32	1694.73	1130.09
4	Bihar	5524.33	5527.10	3684.73
5	Chhatisgarh	1384.06	1384.06	922.70
6	Delhi	450.69	448.68	299.13
7	Goa	58.17	59.05	39.36
8	Gujarat	2178.40	2175.74	1458.07
9	Haryana	795.00	795.00	530.00
10	Himachal Pradesh	508.02	508.02	338.68
11	Jharkhand	1739.51	1724.90	1161.03
12	Karnataka	2608.80	2608.82	1739.22
13	Kerala	1395.97	1425.05	950.03
14	Madhya Pradesh	3443.28	3165.84	2115.78
15	Maharashtra	4605.19	4605.19	3070.13
16	Manipur	162.60	130.99	90.74
17	Meghalaya	176.30	176.30	117.53
18	Mizoram	65.76	65.76	43.84
19	Nagaland	138.06	138.06	92.04
20	Odisha	2224.92	2244.23	1499.80
21	Punjab	870.12	870.12	580.08
22	Rajasthan	2788.07	2770.58	1847.06
23	Sikkim	44.32	44.32	29.55
24	Tamil Nadu	3677.75	3677.75	2451.84
25	Telangana	1338.00	1338.00	892.00
26	Tripura	271.19	271.23	180.82
27	Uttarakhand	503.00	503.00	335.33
28	Uttar Pradesh	9436.97	9782.05	6578.76
29	West Bengal	3970.62	3970.62	2647.08
30	A&N Islands	29.56	29.56	19.71
31	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00
32	DD&DNH	15.89	15.42	10.13
33	Jammu & Kashmir	734.65	734.65	489.77
34	Ladakh	16.43	16.43	10.95
35	Lakshadweep	4.62	4.62	3.08
36	Puducherry	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	54815.41	54866.71	36666.27

Source: FCI

भारत सरकार
उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय
खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण विभाग
राज्य सभा
तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या 34
09 दिसम्बर, 2022 के लिए प्रश्न
सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के तहत खाद्यान्नों का आवंटन

*34. श्री जोस के. मणि:

क्या उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

- (क) क्या सरकार के पास विगत दो वर्षों के दौरान सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली (पीडीएस) के तहत खाद्यान्नों के राज्य-वार आवंटन के संबंध में आंकड़े उपलब्ध हैं;
- (ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;
- (ग) क्या सरकार की सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के अंतर्गत बाजरा अपनाने को प्रोत्साहित करने की कोई योजना है;
- (घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;
- (ङ.) क्या सरकार की सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के तहत राज्यों को खाद्यान्नों के आवंटन में वृद्धि करने की कोई योजना है; और
- (च) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

उत्तर

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग तथा उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण तथा वस्त्र मंत्री
(श्री पीयूष गोयल)

(क) से (च) : विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

राज्य सभा में दिनांक 09.12.2022 को उत्तरार्थ तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या 34 के उत्तर के भाग
(क) से (च) में उल्लिखित विवरण

(क) और (ख): विगत दो वर्षों के दौरान सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के अंतर्गत खाद्यान्नों के राज्यवार आवंटन का ब्यौरा अनुबंध-1 में दिया गया है।

(ग) और (घ): राष्ट्रीय खाद्य सुरक्षा अधिनियम 2013 के अनुसार राज्यों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों को सब्सिडीयुक्त खाद्यान्न उपलब्ध कराए जाते हैं। इस अधिनियम की अनुसूची-1 में पोषक अनाज/मोटे अनाज (जैसे मिलेट्स) को 1 रुपये प्रति किलोग्राम के अत्यधिक सब्सिडीयुक्त दर पर वितरित किया जाता है।

बाजरा पहले से ही सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली का एक अंग है। मोटे अनाज की खरीद, आवंटन, वितरण तथा निपटान के दिशानिर्देशों के अनुसार भारत सरकार के पूर्व अनुमोदन से केन्द्रीय पूल के अंतर्गत किसानों को न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य (एमएसपी) पर मोटा अनाज (ज्वार, बाजरा, मक्का और रागी आदि) खरीदने की अनुमति राज्य सरकारों को दी गई है। मोटा अनाज/बाजरा की फसल उगाने वाले किसानों को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए, हाल ही में भारत सरकार ने दिशानिर्देशों में संशोधन किया है जिसमें इन वस्तुओं की वितरण अवधि को पूर्व में 3 माह से बढ़ाकर 6-10 माह तक कर दिया गया है। इससे बाजरे की खरीद और खपत में वृद्धि होगी क्योंकि राज्यों को उन्हें लक्षित सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली (टीपीडीएस)/अन्य कल्याणकारी योजना में इनके वितरण के लिए अधिक समय मिलेगा। फिलहाल, देश में सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के माध्यम से प्रमुख मिलेट्स (ज्वार, बाजरा और रागी) वितरित किए जाते हैं।

(ड.) और (च): राष्ट्रीय खाद्य सुरक्षा अधिनियम, 2013 में लक्षित सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली (टीपीडीएस) के तहत अधिक सब्सिडीयुक्त खाद्यान्न प्राप्त करने के लिए लगभग 75% ग्रामीण आबादी और 50% शहरी आबादी (देश की कुल आबादी का 67%), जो वर्ष 2011 की जनगणना के अनुसार लगभग 81.35 करोड़ है को कवर करने का प्रावधान है। इस अधिनियम के अंतर्गत लाभार्थियों को अधिक संख्या में कवर किया जाता है ताकि यह सुनिश्चित किया जा सके कि समाज के कमज़ोर और जरूरतमंद वर्गों को इसका लाभ पहुंचे।

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इस अधिनियम की धारा 9 के अनुसार प्रत्येक राज्य के लिए ग्रामीण और शहरी क्षेत्रों में लक्षित सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के तहत कवरेज के प्रतिशत का निर्धारण केन्द्र सरकार करती है और राज्य के ऐसे ग्रामीण और शहरी क्षेत्रों में कवर किए जाने वाले व्यक्तियों की कुल संख्या का आकलन जनगणना, जिसके संगत आंकड़े प्रकाशित किए गए हैं, के अनुसार जनसंख्या अनुमानों के आधार पर किया जाता है। राष्ट्रीय खाद्य सुरक्षा अधिनियम के अंतर्गत पात्र लाभार्थियों की पहचान का दायित्व संबंधित राज्य/संघ राज्य क्षेत्र का होता है। सभी राज्यों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों को एनएफएसए के तहत अपनी संबंधित कवरेज सीमा तक पात्र लाभार्थियों की पहचान करने की सलाह दी गई है।

राज्य सभा में दिनांक 09.12.2022 को उत्तरार्थ तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या 34 के उत्तर के भाग (क) और (ख) में उल्लिखित अनुबंध

लक्षित सार्वजनिक विवरण प्रणाली/राष्ट्रीय खाद्य सुरक्षा अधिनियम के अंतर्गत वर्ष 2020-21 से 2022-23 तक खाद्यान्नों (चावल तथा गेहूँ) का आवंटन				
(हजार टन में)				
क्र.सं.	राज्य/संघ राज्य क्षेत्र	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (नवंबर, 22)
		आवंटन	आवंटन	आवंटन
1	आंध्र प्रदेश	1871.84	1871.84	1247.90
2	अरुणाचल प्रदेश	88.99	89.00	59.33
3	असम	1694.32	1694.73	1130.09
4	बिहार	5524.33	5527.10	3684.73
5	छत्तीसगढ़	1384.06	1384.06	922.70
6	दिल्ली	450.69	448.68	299.13
7	गोवा	58.17	59.05	39.36
8	गुजरात	2178.40	2175.74	1458.07
9	हरियाणा	795.00	795.00	530.00
10	हिमाचल प्रदेश	508.02	508.02	338.68
11	झारखंड	1739.51	1724.90	1161.03
12	कर्नाटक	2608.80	2608.82	1739.22
13	केरल	1395.97	1425.05	950.03
14	मध्य प्रदेश	3443.28	3165.84	2115.78
15	महाराष्ट्र	4605.19	4605.19	3070.13
16	मणिपुर	162.60	130.99	90.74
17	मेघालय	176.30	176.30	117.53
18	मिजोरम	65.76	65.76	43.84
19	नागालैंड	138.06	138.06	92.04
20	ओडिशा	2224.92	2244.23	1499.80
21	पंजाब	870.12	870.12	580.08
22	राजस्थान	2788.07	2770.58	1847.06
23	सिक्किम	44.32	44.32	29.55
24	तमिलनाडु	3677.75	3677.75	2451.84
25	तेलंगाना	1338.00	1338.00	892.00
26	त्रिपुरा	271.19	271.23	180.82
27	उत्तराखंड	503.00	503.00	335.33
28	उत्तर प्रदेश	9436.97	9782.05	6578.76
29	पश्चिम बंगाल	3970.62	3970.62	2647.08
30	अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीपसमूह	29.56	29.56	19.71
31	चंडीगढ़	0.00	0.00	0.00
32	दमन व दीव और दादरा एवं नगर हवेली	15.89	15.42	10.13
33	जम्मू और कश्मीर	734.65	734.65	489.77
34	लद्दाख	16.43	16.43	10.95
35	लक्षद्वीप	4.62	4.62	3.08
36	पुदुचेरी	0.00	0.00	0.00
	कुल	54815.41	54866.71	36666.27

स्रोत : भारतीय खाद्य निगम

SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Sir, Kerala has gone through two consecutive floods in 2018 and 2019. We not only lost lives of hundreds of people but also the livestock and agriculture. During disastrous floods of 2018, the Centre allotted 89,540 metric tonnes of rice to be distributed by Public Distribution System as flood relief. It is learnt that the Centre has demanded Rs. 205 crores for the foodgrains supplied during the emergency.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Pointed question, please.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Sir, my question is: How can this demand be justified by the Centre as the foodgrains were distributed amongst the poor people who suffered losses in one of the worst natural disasters in Kerala?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Sir, this subject does not relate to our Ministry. Every State is given support by the Centre. For any such natural disasters that occur, funds are given by the Centre to all the States of India and the States are expected to meet the requirements out of those funds. Odisha has had so many cyclones; Gujarat has had cyclones and typhoons; Maharashtra has had them; Andhra Pradesh has had them; West Bengal has had them. Every State, through the SDRF and NDRF, meets the requirement of such a nature. Kerala should not be an exception. They have received funds from the Centre. Kindly use those funds and give relief to your people.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Sir, these were emergency times. Anyway, let me put my second supplementary. In 2022, India has been ranked 107 in the Global Hunger Index out of 121 countries. The neighbouring countries like Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka are ahead of us. Afghanistan is the only neighbouring country behind us. Sir, though the Government has continuously questioned the methodology to prepare such index, the prevalence of hunger and poverty in the country can be very well seen. My question is: Has the Government found out the reason behind this mismatch between the excess stock of foodgrains and the prevalence of hunger in the country? Does the Government have any plan to address the critical issues?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: I will just correct this perception. The proposition, which he has made, is that foodgrains were supplied to Kerala and therefore it should not be

charged, is wrong. NDRF/SDRF is required to pay for the foodgrains or any other supplies that it may take from anybody else. The foodgrains were given to Kerala on the premise that they will pay for it. Now they are changing their mind. It is an abject failure of the State Government to meet the needs of their people which has been exposed by my colleague, Mr. Mani.

As regards the Hunger Index, first of all, the name itself is a misnomer. The fact is that every single State of India has given it to us in writing that thanks to the *Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana* where we supplemented 5 kilos of additional grain over and above National Food Security Act entitlement, we have, in a way, eliminated hunger or starvation from this country. Every State has written that not a single death due to starvation occurred over the last two years. We have it in writing including from your State of Kerala. This Hunger Index is a private index made by some private NGO based on subjects which are not related to hunger. They have to first decide what the nomenclature should be. The statistics are drawn out of the data which is unverified. Also, on measurements, they don't relate to India. For example, wasting and stunting figures.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: They are just completely not related to features of an Indian person.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: I think it is important that we recognize what is official and validated and what is mere propaganda.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, I am making a point. In our country, iconic status is granted on parameters that are often baffling. And we have calibration by agencies that do not have any rationale. This august House is the repository of wisdom of over 1.3 billion people. Therefore, when we raise an issue in this House that there is a calibration by an agency, that should not carry much conviction unless the hon. Member or the hon. Minister believe it is premised on our own record. Let us believe in our own worth. It will be very difficult and inappropriate for us to surrender our assessment or our achievements to be assessed by those who have either inadequate data or are dictating their actions according to their interest, not ours. Shri Sanjay Singh.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, which global index will then we use?
...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Every time I say something, at the drop of a hat, we get adversarial stance. Try to digest what I have said. We must analyse the calibration.
...(Interruptions)... We will respect...(Interruptions).. One second.
...(Interruptions)... Please take your seat. ...(Interruptions).. Mr. Jairam Ramesh, please take your seat. What I said is rational with a rationale. And that rationale is, we should not be captive. We are a part of global unity. ...(Interruptions)... One second. ...(Interruptions).. Don't interrupt the Chairman at least.
...(Interruptions)... One second. ...(Interruptions)... I have understood it. ...(Interruptions)... I would urge everyone that there are some issues on which we need to reflect overnight. I would have individual interaction with all of you. I am very categorical that our country cannot be allowed to be hurt by calibration from outside on the premise which we do not believe in. That does not mean outside calibration has no credibility. We will have to get into those areas. I will come to the Question. Now, Shri Sanjay Singh, confine to the question.

श्री संजय सिंह : मान्यवर, सबसे पहले तो मैं आपको हृदय से बधाई देना चाहता हूँ, आपके समक्ष पहली बार मुझे बोलने का अवसर मिला है। आपने इस विषय पर बोलने का मुझे मौका दिया, इसके लिए धन्यवाद।

मान्यवर, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से बड़ी विनम्रतापूर्वक यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि भारत की राशन वितरण प्रणाली मजबूत होनी चाहिए, हम सभी लोग इस बात से सहमत हैं। इसके साथ-साथ मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि हमारी राजनीतिक मतभिन्नता हो सकती है। राशन वितरण प्रणाली में राशन के दुकानदार कितनी गड़बड़ी करते हैं, इस सदन का हर नेता इस बात को जानता है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ask the question. आप प्रश्न पूछिए।

श्री संजय सिंह : मैं प्रश्न पर ही आ रहा हूँ, सर। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से बड़ी विनम्रतापूर्वक यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि दिल्ली के मुख्य मंत्री, श्री अरविंद केजरीवाल जी ने घर-घर राशन पहुंचाने की योजना बनाई, जिससे राशन वितरण प्रणाली ...(व्यवधान)... सर, देखिए, ये गरीब आदमी पर हंस रहे हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति : आप क्वेश्चन पूछिए।

श्री संजय सिंह : सर, ये गरीब पर हंसते हैं।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति : आप क्वेश्चन पूछिए।

श्री संजय सिंह : सर, यह सब जानते हैं कि राशन वितरण प्रणाली में धांधली होती है।...(व्यवधान)... मान्यवर, घर-घर राशन पहुंचाने की योजना को आप मंजूरी क्यों नहीं देना चाहते, इसको आज सदन में स्पष्ट कीजिए।...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a good question.

श्री संजय सिंह : आप योग को मंजूरी नहीं देते, राशन को मंजूरी नहीं देते।...(व्यवधान)... आखिर आप चाहते क्या हैं? आप गरीब को राशन क्यों नहीं देना चाहते? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति : मंत्री जी, आप बोलिए।

श्री पीयूष गोयल : माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं भी बड़ी विनम्रता से माननीय सदस्य को बताना चाहूंगा कि देश में एक कानून व्यवस्था है।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति : मुझे बड़ी खुशी है कि आप दोनों ही विनम्रता का प्रदर्शन कर रहे हैं।

श्री पीयूष गोयल : महोदय, मैं बड़ी विनम्रता से आपके समक्ष रखना चाहूंगा कि देश में एक कानून है। कानून व्यवस्था से ही यह देश चलता है। कानून ने ऐसे प्रावधान बनाए हैं, जिनसे कोई भी राज्य सरकार अगर धांधलेबाजी करना चाहे, तो उसको रोका जा सके। सर, दिल्ली की यही स्कीम कोर्ट द्वारा नामंजूर की गई है।

सर, मैं इसके बारे में थोड़ा विस्तार से बताना चाहूंगा, क्योंकि इनकी गलतफहमियां ठीक करने की आवश्यकता है।...(व्यवधान)... माननीय सभापति महोदय,...(व्यवधान)... माननीय सभापति महोदय, इन्होंने इस बात को नज़रअंदाज़ किया है। फेयर प्राइस शॉप्स भी राज्य सरकार के अंतर्गत चलती हैं। अगर वे गलत काम कर रहे हैं, तो आप ऐक्शन क्यों नहीं लेते? राज्य सरकार की जिम्मेदारी है कि वह उन पर ऐक्शन ले। ये घर-घर राशन के नाम पर * करना चाहते हैं। दिल्ली की सरकार हर चीज़ में * और धांधलेबाजी से गरीब का अनाज * करने का एक नया प्रयोग

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

...(व्यवधान)... पहले दारू में * और अब अनाज में * ।...(व्यवधान)... यह * की सरकार, * को इंस्टीट्यूशनलाइज़ करना चाहती है। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति : मंत्री जी, आप बैठिए।

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY: Sir, I have a point of order. ...(*Interruptions*)... This is in relation to Rule 47, sub-rule (2). It says that the right to ask a question is governed by the following conditions and there are 22 conditions for Members to raise the question. But there is no such conditionality in so far as the Ministers are concerned while they give their reply. Just now, I have found that this House has witnessed that in reply to a supplementary question of hon. Member, Mr. Sanjay Singh, the hon. Minister characterized the State Government as *chor*, thief Government. ...(*Interruptions*)... Is it admissible under the rules? I put it for your kind consideration. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are two things I need to indicate. One, there is no point of order during this period. Am I right? ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY: Sir, with your consent, I have raised the point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no question of point of order in Question Hour. Secondly, the hon. Member has raised an issue which we all must consider. I will look into it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am so glad for your patience.

SHRI A.A. RAHIM: Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No; Shri Subhas Chandra Bose Pilli, please.

SHRI A.A. RAHIM: Okay, not mine!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, please.

SHRI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE PILLI: Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I was appreciating your patience but the patience continued beyond a limit. Go ahead.

SHRI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE PILLI: Sir, I am putting my straight question. Can the hon. Minister state the reasons as to why the Targeted Public Distribution System in Andhra Pradesh covers only 61 per cent of rural and 41 per cent of urban population when compared to the stipulated coverage of 75 per cent rural and 50 per cent of urban population under National Food Security Act? I also request the hon. Minister to revise the coverage of beneficiaries by TPDS and NFSA as recommended by NITI Aayog.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Sir, this is, unfortunately, a legacy of the very ill-drafted A.P. Re-organization Act, in which a lot of questions were left unanswered. It was done in a hurry because of which when the allocation of free food-grains between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh was decided, it was probably not very scientific, and Andhra Pradesh people feel that they have been unjustly deprived of the right amount of coverage. Telangana was given a greater share compared to Andhra Pradesh. It was done before this Government came in. (*Time-bell rings.*) It was based on the Census of 2011. Ideally, when the Census of 2021 happened, we would have been able to look into the matter afresh. Unfortunately, due to the Covid pandemic, we have not yet been able to conduct the Census. I am sure and I have assured the hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh during several conversations that when the current Census data comes out, we would know exactly which State should get what quantity. I have received it as a legacy. It was probably done in a hurry but sadly it is beyond my power under the NFSA to change it.

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Sir, Shri Jairam Ramesh wants to respond to it.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, it was not done in a hurry. It was based on 2011 Census. ...(*Interruptions*)... If only you could conduct the Census, this problem would not have arisen. You are repeatedly postponing the Census.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Jawhar Sircar.

SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR: Thank you, Sir, for this opportunity. I have only one simple and sharp question addressed to the hon. Minister. Are we heading for a food crisis? I have figures with me. Usually, we have stocks of about 25 million tonnes to 26 million tonnes of wheat at the beginning of the year. We have around 29 million tonnes to 30 million tonnes of rice at the end of the year. Last year's procurement was an all time record. But, in this current year and in the previous year, we have consumed a lot, thanks to the Prime Minister's free ration scheme. The net question is that wheat has been impacted, as we know, by the heat wave and other factors.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question, please.

SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR: And, Sir, rice, paddy has also been badly impacted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, the question has been asked.

SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR: They have been reflected on the procurement figures. So, we are in shortage state, hon. Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, the question is very clear.

SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR: And I would like the Government to admit it and take steps.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Hon. Chairman, Sir, the question is in two parts. I would give a sharp and short reply for the first part.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Give short, polite and modest reply. Sharp may be avoided.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Sir, have you seen me ever lose my temper in any of the question-answer?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. I know Jawhar Sircar ji would not take a sharp reply. He would take a modest reply.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Okay, Sir. I, with all due modesty, share with the hon. Members, through you, that the country -- thanks to the very deft management of the economy by the hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi -- will not face any food

shortage in the years to come. I can assure the hon. Member. We are carefully calibrating and managing our buffer stocks of rice, wheat, and different other products where we have buffer stocks, like, on pulses. We are very deftly managing and calibrating import duties, export duties to ensure that our stocks remain intact. And, while the world may face a food deficit, fortunately, because we are monitoring it on a daily basis with the hon. Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah, heading a Group of Ministers, continuously, monitoring inflation and stock levels and other associated physical and monetary measures, we have been able to control scarcity as well as control inflation. As regards his other point on buffer stocks, our buffer stocks are within norms despite, as I said earlier, doubling the food allocation. Nearly, one thousand one hundred lakh metric ton of rice and wheat has been distributed free of charge to 80 crore people. It is a humongous quantity. Thanks to the record procurement, we were able to feed every single person and as I said earlier, zero starvation deaths. I am sure that you will appreciate that Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana, particularly, in the stress of Covid, was one of the most important schemes that saved the country. Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you, yourself, have received accolades in your international visits about the Scheme.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. No. 35; Shri Ajit Kumar Bhuyan.