

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

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.63
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8TH DECEMBER, 2023

IMPLEMENTATION OF PMGKAY

*63 SHRI DHANANJAY BHIMRAO MAHADIK:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is successfully implementing the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) introduced in 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that PMGKAY has been extended for a further period of 5 years; and
- (d) in what manner will it be helpful in eradication of malnutrition from the country?

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO FARTS (a) to (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. *63 FOR ANSWER ON 08.12.2023 IN THE RAJYA SABHA

(a) to (c): The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) was launched with the specific purpose of ameliorating the hardships faced by the poor and needy due to economic disruptions caused by the COVID-19 outbreak in the country. In view of COVID crisis, the allocation of free foodgrains, under PMGKAY was in addition to regular allocation done. A total quantity of approx. 1118 LMT foodgrains had been allocated under PMGKAY (Phase I-VII) for the period of 28 months with a total planned financial outlay was about Rs. 3.91 lakh crore.

The Central Government, in order to remove the financial burden of the poor beneficiaries and to ensure nationwide uniformity and effective implementation of the programme for support of the poor, the Central Government had decided to provide food grains free of cost to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households and Priority Households (PHH) beneficiaries, beginning from 1st January 2023 under PMGKAY.

Keeping in view welfare of the beneficiaries of PMGKAY in terms of accessibility, affordability and availability of food grains for the poor and to maintain uniformity across the States, the Government has decided to continue to provide free food grains to about 81.35 crore NFSA beneficiaries (i.e. AAY households and PHH) under the PMGKAY for a period of five years with effect from 1st January, 2024 with an estimated financial outlay of Rs 11.80 lakh crore. The entire cost of the food subsidy under the PMGKAY is to be incurred by the Government of India.

Under One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC), which is a successful initiative of portability of ration card, any beneficiary can take delivery of food grains from any Fair Price Shops at uniform entitlement and price across the country. The free food grains will concurrently ensure uniform implementation of portability under ONORC across the country and will further strengthen this choice-based platform. The ONORC plan, is enabled in all the 36 States/UTs, across the country, covering entire beneficiaries. Also, end to end computerization and digitization of TPDS that ensures transparency and rightful targeting of beneficiaries in the country through Aadhar-biometric authentication, has resulted in creating strong backbone for the implementation of ONORC. So far (since inception i.e August 2019 onwards), more than 124 crore portability transactions are recorded under ONORC. By giving free food grains, Government of India ensures nobody sleeps hungry. In so far as Department of Food & Public Distribution, Government of India is concerned, no State Government/Union Territory Administration has reported any incident of death due to hunger/starvation.

.....2/-

(d): Government of India has a commitment to the people of the nation - a dignified life by ensuring them access to food and nutritional security through availability of adequate quantity of quality food grains. Special provisions have been made for pregnant women and lactating mothers and children in the age group of 6 months to 14 years, by entitling them to receive nutritious meal free of cost through a widespread network of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) centres, called Anganwadi Centres under ICDS scheme and also through schools under Mid-Day Meal (Now PM-POSHAN) scheme. Higher nutritional norms have been prescribed for malnourished children upto 6 years of age.

भारत सरकार
उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय
खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण विभाग

राज्य सभा

तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या 63

08 दिसंबर, 2023 के लिए प्रश्न

पीएमजीकेएवाई का कार्यान्वयन

*63. श्री धनंजय भीमराव महादिक:

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

- (क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार कोविड-19 महामारी के दौरान 2020 में शुरू की गई प्रधानमंत्री गरीब कल्याण अन्न योजना (पीएमजीकेएवाई) को सफलतापूर्वक लागू कर रही है;
- (ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;
- (ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि पीएमजीकेएवाई को पांच साल की अवधि के लिए बढ़ा दिया गया है; और
- (घ) यह देश से कुपोषण के उन्मूलन में किस प्रकार सहायक होगा?

उत्तर

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

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

राज्य सभा में दिनांक 08.12.2023 को उत्तरार्थ तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या 63 (तृतीय स्थान) के उत्तर के भाग (क) से (घ) में उल्लिखित विवरण।

(क) से (ग): प्रधानमंत्री गरीब कल्याण अन्न योजना (पीएमजीकेएवाई) देश में कोविड-19 के प्रकोप के कारण हुए आर्थिक व्यवधानों के कारण गरीबों और जरूरतमंदों को होने वाली कठिनाइयों को दूर करने के विशेष उद्देश्य से प्रारंभ की गई थी। कोविड संकट के मददेनजर, पीएमजीकेएवाई के तहत खाद्यान्नों का निःशुल्क आवंटन नियमित आवंटन के अतिरिक्त था। पीएमजीकेएवाई (चरण I-VII) के तहत 28 माह की अवधि के लिए लगभग 1118 लाख टन खाद्यान्नों की कुल मात्रा का आवंटन किया गया था, जिसका कुल नियोजित वित्तीय परिव्यय लगभग 3.91 लाख करोड़ रुपए था।

गरीब लाभार्थियों के वित्तीय बोझ को समाप्त करने और इस कार्यक्रम की राष्ट्रव्यापी एकरूपता एवं प्रभावी कार्यान्वयन को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए, केंद्र सरकार ने दिनांक 1 जनवरी, 2023 से प्रधानमंत्री गरीब कल्याण अन्न योजना (पीएमजीकेएवाई) के तहत अंत्योदय अन्न योजना (एएवाई) वाले परिवार और प्राथमिकता वाले परिवार (पीएचएच) के लाभार्थियों को निःशुल्क खाद्यान्न उपलब्ध कराने का निर्णय लिया था ताकि निर्धन व्यक्तियों को सहायता प्रदान की जा सके।

पीएमजीकेएवाई के लाभार्थियों के हितों को ध्यान में रखते हुए और गरीबों की खाद्यान्नों तक पहुंच, वहनीयता व उपलब्धता को सुदृढ़ करने हेतु तथा राज्यों में एकरूपता बनाए रखने के लिए, सरकार ने प्रधानमंत्री गरीब कल्याण अन्न योजना (पीएमजीकेएवाई) के तहत लगभग 81.35 करोड़ एनएफएसए लाभार्थियों (अर्थात् एएवाई परिवारों और पीएचएच) को दिनांक 1 जनवरी, 2024 से पांच वर्ष की अवधि के लिए 11.80 लाख करोड़ रुपए के अनुमानित वित्तीय परिव्यय के साथ निःशुल्क खाद्यान्न प्रदान करने का निर्णय लिया है। पीएमजीकेएवाई के तहत खाद्य सब्सिडी की संपूर्ण लागत का वहन भारत सरकार द्वारा किया जाएगा।

एक राष्ट्र एक राशन कार्ड (ओएनओआरसी), जो राशन कार्ड पोर्टेबिलिटी की एक सफल पहल है, के अंतर्गत कोई भी लाभार्थी देशभर में किसी भी उचित दर दुकान से एकसमान पात्रता और मूल्य पर खाद्यान्न प्राप्त कर सकता है। निःशुल्क खाद्यान्न प्रदान करने से देशभर में ओएनओआरसी के तहत एकसमान पोर्टेबिलिटी का कार्यान्वयन सुनिश्चित हो सकेगा और इससे विकल्प-आधारित प्लेटफॉर्म सुदृढ़ बनेगा। ओएनओआरसी योजना, देशभर के सभी 36 राज्यों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों में लागू की गई है, जिसमें सभी लाभार्थियों को कवर किया गया है। इसके अलावा, लक्षित सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली (टीपीडीएस) का एक सिरे से दूसरे सिरे तक कम्प्यूटरीकरण और डिजिटलीकरण आधार-बायोमेट्रिक प्रमाणीकरण के

माध्यम से देश में लाभार्थियों की पारदर्शिता और सही लक्ष्यीकरण को सुनिश्चित करता है जिसके परिणामस्वरूप ओएनओआरसी को कार्यान्वित करने के लिए एक मजबूत आधार तैयार हुआ है। अभी तक (प्रारंभ अर्थात् अगस्त, 2019 से) ओएनओआरसी के तहत 124 करोड़ पोर्टेबिलिटी लेनदेन दर्ज किए गए हैं। खाद्यान्नों को निःशुल्क उपलब्ध कराने से भारत सरकार द्वारा यह सुनिश्चित किया जाता है कि कोई भी व्यक्ति भूखा न रहे। जहां तक खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण विभाग, भारत सरकार का संबंध है, किसी भी राज्य/संघ राज्य क्षेत्र के प्रशासन द्वारा भूख/भुखमरी की वजह से मृत्यु की कोई घटना रिपोर्ट नहीं की गई है।

(घ): राष्ट्र के नागरिकों के प्रति भारत सरकार की सामाजिक और वैधानिक प्रतिबद्धता है - गुणवत्तापरक खाद्यान्नों की पर्याप्त मात्रा में उपलब्धता के माध्यम से खाद्य और पौषणिक सुरक्षा तक पहुंच प्रदान करके एक गरिमामय जीवन देना। गर्भवती महिलाओं और स्तनपान कराने वाली माताओं तथा 6 माह से 14 वर्ष तक की आयु के बच्चों के लिए आईसीडीएस योजना के तहत एकीकृत बाल विकास सेवा (आईसीडीएस) केंद्रों, जिन्हें आंगनवाड़ी केंद्र कहा जाता है, के व्यापक नेटवर्क और मध्याह्न भोजन (अब पीएम-पोषण) योजना के तहत विद्यालयों के माध्यम से निःशुल्क पौष्टिक भोजन उपलब्ध कराने के लिए विशेष प्रावधान किए हैं। 6 वर्ष तक की आयु के कुपोषित बच्चों के लिए उच्च पोषण मानक निर्धारित किये गए हैं।

SHRI SAKET GOKHALE: Sir, first of all, I would like to express my gratitude to you. Today, we saw you protecting a Member and actually putting a question to the Minister. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to you for the way you protected the Member. A lot of States, especially during COVID-19 and even after that, have rejected *dal* and other grains that come under the PMGKAY. Sir, through you, my question to the hon. Minister is: What were the reasons for States rejecting food grains that come under this Yojana and what steps have been taken to ensure that high quality food is now being supplied to different States under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): Sir, I don't think there has been any incident of rejection of *dal* because we don't supply *dal* under the PMGKAY. ...(*Interruptions*)... There is no such incident that has been reported to us that States have rejected food grains. In fact, most States themselves are procuring food grains and distributing them in their States. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him conclude.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: I think the hon. Member may kindly place the specific incident where there is rejection of *dal* or whatever food grain he is claiming to have been rejected. ...(*Interruptions*)... If at all there is any misdemeanor at the level of Fair Price Shop, certainly, the State Government should investigate that. But no incident of the FCI sending any material that had got rejected is currently available with us. If he gives us some specific details, we can respond to that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If there is any instance with the hon. Member, he will share it with the Leader of the House. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SAKET GOKHALE: Sir, Tamil Nadu is one example. What had happened was that after food grains were rejected, they went to NAFED. They instituted a committee. After that, NAFED changed the procurement process where out of 100 per cent that is given by millers, 70 per cent is taken and the OTR lower limit was removed. That is why I would request the hon. Leader of the House to kindly let the Minister, under whose jurisdiction it is, to respond because he does not seem to be aware of the facts.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Sir, through you, I strongly rebut what has been said by the hon. Member. I would like him to place that record on the Table of the House since he has made a very grave allegation against a very reputed organization. Please place the details on the floor of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member may do it. ...(*Interruptions*)... Please take your seat. ...(*Interruptions*)... Hon. Member has put in firm perspective an assertion which has been disputed by the Leader of the House. The hon. Member may put it on the Table of the House. We will examine it. ...(*Interruptions*).... Next is Shri Tiruchi Siva. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SAKET GOKHALE: Sir, I have one request. The Minister should give a categorical statement on record saying...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I take note of both. Every document, which I call upon to be put on the Table of the House, is seriously examined. Shri Tiruchi Siva.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, keeping in view the welfare of beneficiaries of the PMGKAY, the Government of India has decided to continue providing food grains to 81.35 crore beneficiaries with an outlay of Rs.11.8 lakh crore. It is very much appreciable. The whole subsidy burden is borne by the Government of India. My simple question is: After all this, in the Global Hunger Index, why does India rank at 111 out of a total of 125 countries?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, while this is not directly related to the question, I am happy to share with the hon. Member that the Global Hunger Index has not at all spoken about hunger being the cause of any death or there being any people who are hungry in India. In fact, I have in writing from all the States including the State of Tamil Nadu that there is no starvation death in their State thanks to the sufficient availability of foodgrains in the country. Our *annadatas* really need to be complimented -- you are a *kisan putra* yourself -- for the fantastic increase in production in the last nine to ten years. We are one of the few countries in the world where production has gone up significantly and thanks to 81.35 crore poor and lower middle class people who get free foodgrains. ...(*Interruptions*)... The Hunger Index takes into account certain factors which have been wholly rejected by the Government of India. They have certain ways of calculating stunting and malnutrition which have been rejected by the Government of India, rejected by India, because those pertain to western standards and not to India. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, all I can say with confidence, and I am sure the House will agree, our hunger index for power is perhaps highest in the world! Am I right? Yes, it is there. ...(*Interruptions*)... It seems that I am not intelligible. ...(*Interruptions*)... Now, Dr. Fauzia Khan; this is the last supplementary on this question.

DR. FAUZIA KHAN: Sir, the Minister just now mentioned about stunting and other things. So, I would like to ask him a question. There are 200 million malnourished population in India which involves factors like poverty, lack of proper nutrients in their food, access to clean water, poor sanitation, etc. Despite the evident link between food security and malnutrition, it has rarely been investigated. I would like to ask the Minister: How do schemes like PMGKY address malnourishment in this context? He just said that they don't distribute *dal*. So, why can't we include such nutrients?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Sir, today, PMGKY is possibly the world's largest outlay that has ever been embarked anywhere in the world on free foodgrains to ensure that no child sleeps hungry and all the poor get free foodgrains. 81 crore people are benefitting from that, fully funded by the Government of India. Whether you want to give *dal* or other products, different States are free to decide on their own and have their own schemes. The Government of India had an outlay of Rs.11.8 lakh crore on PMGKY. As regards poverty, 13 crore people have come out of poverty in the five-year period. The report has just come out recently. I would urge the hon. Member to introspect what their party and their Government for so many years did that has caused this situation in the country today. Why are we in a situation where we have people who are still malnourished or are not getting adequate nourishment or protein is something for a Government, of which she and her party leaders were a part for over 55 years, to introspect on what they did in all these years that the country has come to this state of affairs. ...(*Interruptions*)... And how in a short period of nine years, the country has transformed itself so that, across the country, nowhere, there is shortage of foodgrains and nowhere people are dying of hunger! In any case, malnutrition statistics are based on parameters which have been rejected by the Government because they do not apply to the people of India, to the demographic profile of the people of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, on every question, I get a number of supplementary requests. But, as per practice, I can handle only three and I take them as far as possible serially but if they all happen from the same political party, I

slightly deviate to make it a little more representative. Q.No. 64. Shri Harbhajan Singh, not present. Any supplementaries?

**Q. No. 64 [The questioner was absent.]*