

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.206
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH FEBRUARY, 2025

CIP OF RICE AND WHEAT

206 SHRI P. WILSON:

Will the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government is taking to revise the Central Issue Price (CIP) for rice and wheat, which has remained unchanged since 2002 in light of rising economic costs and the increasing food subsidy bill, ; and

(b) the details of measures being undertaken by Government to ensure that food security programs under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) account for population growth beyond the 2011 Census and reflect the most recent population projections for 2024 and the steps taken to expand NFSA coverage to address the exclusion of a growing number of beneficiaries from food security programs?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)

(a): Foodgrains under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) were to be made available at subsidized prices of Rs. 3/2/1 per kg for rice, wheat and coarse grains respectively for an initial period of three years from the date of commencement of the Act (July 13, 2013). Thereafter, prices were to be fixed by the Central Government from time to time, but not exceeding MSP. Government reviewed the prices from time to time and continued the same subsidized prices till December, 2022. The Central Government, in order to remove the financial burden of the poor beneficiaries and to ensure nationwide uniformity and effective implementation of the Act, had decided to provide food grains free of cost to NFSA beneficiaries i.e. AAY households and PHH beneficiaries, for a period of one year beginning from 1st January 2023 under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY). The period for distribution of free of cost foodgrains has been extended for further five years i.e. from 1st January, 2024.

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(b): The Act provides for coverage of upto 75% of rural population and upto 50% of urban population for receiving highly subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), thus covering about two-thirds of the total population which at Census 2011 comes to 81.35 crore. Coverage under the Act is substantially high to ensure that all the vulnerable and needy sections of the society get its benefit. States/ Union Territories have also been advised to clean up their beneficiary database from time to time to ensure rightful targeting of beneficiaries and inclusion of deserving persons within the ceiling determined under the NFSA for availing benefits under the Act.

Section 9 of the Act provides that the total number of persons to be covered in 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. Therefore, any revision in coverage shall be possible only after the relevant data of next population Census is published.
