

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1312
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.03.2025

DISTRIBUTION OF ESSENTIAL FOOD SUPPLIES IN VARIOUS STATES

1312. SHRI BABUBHAI JESANGBHAI DESAI

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there are rising concerns around food inflation and the uneven distribution of essential food supplies in various States;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Ministry to ensure equitable and efficient distribution of food grains across the country, especially in rural and economically weaker sections; and
- (c) whether Government is planning to enhance the Public Distribution System (PDS) to address these challenges more effectively?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE, CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI B. L. VERMA)

(a) & (b) : Food inflation measured by year-on-year percentage variation in Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) as published by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation had declined to 6.02% in January, 2025 from 10.87% in October, 2024. The Government implements the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), which aims to supplement the food requirements of up to 75% of the rural and up to 50% of the urban population which, as per Census 2011 comes to 81.35 crore persons. Coverage under the Act is substantially high to ensure that all the vulnerable and needy sections of the society get its benefit. Under the Act, while Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households, which constitute the poorest of the poor, are entitled to 35 kg of foodgrains per family per month, Priority Households (PHH) are entitled to 5 kg of foodgrains per person per month, free of cost.

(c) : At present, there is no proposal to enhance the coverage of beneficiaries or foodgrain entitlement of beneficiaries under consideration of the Government.
