

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2917
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6TH AUGUST, 2025

FREE FOODGRAIN DISTRIBUTION UNDER PMGKAY

2917. SHRI VISHWESHWAR HEGDE KAGERI:
SHRI RAJESH NARANBHAI CHUDASAMA:

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

- (a): the details of the prices at which food grains were issued to beneficiaries prior to the implementation of free foodgrain distribution under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY); and
- (b): the details of the additional financial burden arising from the distribution of free foodgrains to beneficiaries under PMGKAY?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)

(a) & (b): Foodgrains under 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 foodgrains free of cost to 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 January, 2024, with an estimated financial outlay of Rs. 11.80 lakh crore totally to be borne by Central Government.
