

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3151
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19TH MARCH, 2025

PMGKAY IN JALPAIGURI

3151. DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY:

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

- (a) the total quantity of foodgrains allocated to Jalpaiguri district under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY);
- (b) the status of food storage infrastructure in the district and whether there are any proposals to construct additional storage depots; and
- (c) the measures taken to ensure that all eligible beneficiaries receive their entitlements under the Yojana?

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

(a): The Central Government allocates food grains to States/UT Government. During Current Financial Year (FY) 2024-25 total 39,70,620 MT of food grains (17,11,612 MT Wheat & 22,59,008 MT Rice) has been allocated by this Department to Govt. of West Bengal under PMGKAY. District-wise allocation is made by the concerned State/UT Government. As per Food Corporation of India (FCI), the total quantity of food grains allocated to Jalpaiguri district under PMGKAY during FY 2024-25 (as on 28.02.2025) is 1,13,308 MT (68,089 MT of Rice & 45,219 MT of Wheat).

(b): One godown (Central Storage Depot at Dabgram) of 68510 MT capacity is operating in the district of Jalpaiguri (West Bengal) by FCI.

Requirement of Storage capacity depends upon the level of procurement, requirement of buffer norms and Public Distribution System (PDS) operations for food grains (Rice and Wheat). FCI continuously assesses and monitors the storage capacity and based on the requirement and storage gap assessment, storage capacities are created/hired through following schemes at a Pan India level including West Bengal:-

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1. Construction of Silos under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.
2. Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme
3. Central Sector Scheme "Storage & Godowns".
4. Hiring of godown from Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC)/ State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs)/State Agencies.
5. Private Warehousing Scheme (PWS).
6. Creation of godowns under Asset Monetization.

(c): The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) provides a legal entitlement to 81.35 crore persons to avail foodgrains at free of cost. As part of the technology driven Public Distribution System (PDS) reforms, with the aim to improve the efficiency and reduce leakages in the PDS, ration cards/beneficiaries database have been completely digitized (100%) in all States/UTs. The transparency portal and online grievance redressal facility/Toll-free number have been implemented in all States/UTs. Also, online allocation has been implemented in all States/UTs (except UTs of Chandigarh, Puducherry and Urban area of Dadra & Nagar Haveli which have adopted DBT Cash Transfer scheme) and supply chain has been computerized in 31 States/UTs.

Further, nearly 5.41 Lakh (99.6%) out of total 5.43 Lakh Fair Price Shops (FPSs) in the country have been automated by installing ePoS devices for the distribution of foodgrains in a transparent manner (electronically) through biometric/ Aadhaar authentication of beneficiaries.

The nation-wide portability of ration cards has been enabled in all 36 States/UTs under One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) feature which ensures the food security of around 80 Crore beneficiaries in the country. Under the ONORC, the beneficiaries are empowered to lift their entitled foodgrain from any Fair Price Shop (FPS) of their choice, anywhere in the country, by using their existing ration card with biometric authentication on an electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) device. The family back home can also lift the part of the foodgrains in the home State/UT on the same ration card.
