

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1622
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10TH DECEMBER, 2025

NUTRITIONAL DIVERSIFICATION UNDER PMGKAY

1622. DR. K SUDHAKAR:
DR. RAJESH MISHRA:
SHRI DULU MAHATO:
SMT. SMITA UDAY WAGH:
SHRI P P CHAUDHARY:
SHRI KHAGEN MURMU:
SHRI ALOK SHARMA:
SHRI NABA CHARAN MAJHI:
SHRI NALIN SOREN:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to include pulses, coarse grains and other nutritious food items in the grain basket under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY);
- (b) whether fortified rice (or other fortified cereals) are being supplied under the said scheme across various States including Jharkhand;
- (c) if so, the status thereof across various States/UTs;
- (d) whether the Government has conducted or proposes to conduct any study to evaluate the nutritional adequacy of the current grain basket;
- (e) if not, the reasons behind non strengthening of the nutritional dimension;
- (f) whether any proposals are under consideration to strengthen PMGKAYs nutritional dimension in future phases and if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the details/status of implementation of the said scheme in Sidhi Lok Sabha Constituency?

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

(a): The Public Distribution System is now governed as per the provisions of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY). Under the NFSA, the term “foodgrains” is defined as rice, wheat or coarse grains or any combination thereof conforming to such quality norms as may be determined, by order, by the Central Government from time to time.

At present, no proposal for inclusion of more commodities under the scheme is under consideration of the Government.

(b) & (c): The Government of India is supplying fortified rice under 'Rice Fortification Initiative' through Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) in all States and Union Territories (UTs) including Jharkhand. Since Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab are wheat-consuming states; and Chandigarh, Puducherry are 100% DBT UTs, the fortified rice is not distributed in these States/UTs under the Public Distribution System (PDS). In October 2024, the Cabinet approved the continuation of this initiative across the country as the Central Sector Initiative (fully funded by the Government) up to December 2028.

(d) to (f): The National Food Security Act, 2013 provides food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food free of cost to people to live a life with dignity. The Act provides that pregnant women and lactating mothers and children in the age group of 6 months to 14 years are entitled to meals as per prescribed nutritional norms under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and PM-POSHAN schemes. Higher nutritional norms are prescribed for malnourished children upto 6 years of age.

Further, in order to improve the nutritional standards in targeted beneficiaries, the Government has revised the nutritional norms specified in Schedule-II of the Act, vide notification dated 25.01.2023.

(g): The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) is being implemented in all the States/UTs including Sidhi Parliamentary Constituency in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
