

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2824
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH DECEMBER, 2023**

PRICES OF FOODGRAINS FOR BPL AND APL FAMILIES

†2824. SHRIMATI DELKAR KALABEN MOHANBHAI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of population living Below Poverty Line (BPL) in different parts of the country including Dadra Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, especially in backward rural areas along with the total percentage of the said population in the country;
- (b) whether the prices of commodities are almost equal to the open market prices in fair price shops which provide foodgrains and other essential items for people living Above Poverty Line (APL);
- (c) if so, whether the Government has taken or proposes to take any measures to reduce the prices of foodgrains, sugar, kerosene for BPL and APL families under the Public Distribution System; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)**

(a): The number of persons living below poverty line in India has been estimated to be 27 crore (21.92%) in 2011-12, according to the erstwhile Planning Commission. State/UT-wise details of population (including Dadra Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu) living below poverty line as per this estimate, is at Annexure.

Further, NITI Aayog released the National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023 on 17th July 2023. As per this report 13.5 crore people escaped "Multidimensional Poverty" between 2015-16 and 2019-21. A steep decline has been reported in number of multi dimensionally poor from 24.85% to 14.96% between 2015-16 and 2019-21.

(b) to (d): Under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), foodgrains, free of cost, are being provided to States/UTs for distribution to around 80 crore beneficiaries through Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) ensures coverage upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population for receiving foodgrains (rice, wheat & coarsegrains). Eligible families comprise of Priority Households (PHH) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families and there are no APL or BPL categories. The Priority Households are entitled to receive 5 kg of foodgrains per person per month and the families covered under the AAY receive 35 kg of foodgrains per month per family. Under the Public Distribution System (PDS), foodgrains were provided at subsidized prices upto December, 2022. However, w.e.f. 1st January, 2023, foodgrains are being distributed to eligible beneficiaries free of cost under PMGKAY.

Keeping in view the welfare of the beneficiaries of PMGKAY in terms of accessibility, affordability and availability of food grains for the poor and to maintain uniformity across the States, the Government has decided to continue to provide free food grains to about 81.35 crore beneficiaries (i.e. Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households and Priority Households (PHH) beneficiaries) under the PMGKAY for a period of five years with effect from 1st January, 2024, with an estimated financial outlay of Rs. 11.80 lakh crore totally to be borne by the Central Government.

The provision of free food grains under PMGKAY for five years with effect from 1st January 2024 reflects the long-term commitment and vision of the Government for addressing National food and nutrition security. Provision of free food grains shall mitigate any financial hardship of the affected strata of society in a sustainable manner and ensure long term pricing strategy with zero cost to the beneficiaries which is vital for effective penetration of the Public Distribution System.

Further, the Central Government under the scheme Sugar Subsidy Payable under PDS for AAY Families with effect from 1.6.2017, is reimbursing sugar subsidy to the participating States/ UTs @ Rs. 18.50 per kg for coverage of AAY families @ 1 kg of sugar per family per month to the participating States/UTs. Under the sugar subsidy scheme, the State Governments /UTs are required to procure sugar from the open market through a transparent system and make it available to the beneficiaries under the PDS. The role of Central Government is limited to providing the agreed amount of subsidy. The operational responsibilities for allocation of food-grains including sugar within the States/UTs, to eligible beneficiaries and supervision over and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs)/ Rashan Dukan etc, rest with the concerned State/UT Governments.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) to (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2824 FOR ANSWER ON 20.12.2023 IN THE LOK SABHA.

Number and Percentage of Population below poverty line by states - 2011-12

(Tendulkar Methodology)

S. No.	States	Rural		Urban		Total	
		% of Persons	No. of Persons (lakhs)	% of Persons	No. of Persons (lakhs)	% of Persons	No. of Persons (lakhs)
1	Andhra Pradesh	10.96	61.80	5.81	16.98	9.20	78.78
2	Arunachal Pradesh	38.93	4.25	20.33	0.66	34.67	4.91
3	Assam	33.89	92.06	20.49	9.21	31.98	101.27
4	Bihar	34.06	320.40	31.23	37.75	33.74	358.15
5	Chhattisgarh	44.61	88.90	24.75	15.22	39.93	104.11
6	Delhi	12.92	0.50	9.84	16.46	9.91	16.96
7	Goa	6.81	0.37	4.09	0.38	5.09	0.75
8	Gujarat	21.54	75.35	10.14	26.88	16.63	102.23
9	Haryana	11.64	19.42	10.28	9.41	11.16	28.83
10	Himachal Pradesh	8.48	5.29	4.33	0.30	8.06	5.59
11	Jammu & Kashmir	11.54	10.73	7.20	2.53	10.35	13.27
12	Jharkhand	40.84	104.09	24.83	20.24	36.96	124.33
13	Karnataka	24.53	92.80	15.25	36.96	20.91	129.76
14	Kerala	9.14	15.48	4.97	8.46	7.05	23.95
15	Madhya Pradesh	35.74	190.95	21.00	43.10	31.65	234.06
16	Maharashtra	24.22	150.56	9.12	47.36	17.35	197.92
17	Manipur	38.80	7.45	32.59	2.78	36.89	10.22
18	Meghalaya	12.53	3.04	9.26	0.57	11.87	3.61
19	Mizoram	35.43	1.91	6.36	0.37	20.40	2.27
20	Nagaland	19.93	2.76	16.48	1.00	18.88	3.76
21	Odisha	35.69	126.14	17.29	12.39	32.59	138.53
22	Punjab	7.66	13.35	9.24	9.82	8.26	23.18
23	Rajasthan	16.05	84.19	10.69	18.73	14.71	102.92
24	Sikkim	9.85	0.45	3.66	0.06	8.19	0.51
25	Tamil Nadu	15.83	59.23	6.54	23.40	11.28	82.63

26	Tripura	16.53	4.49	7.42	0.75	14.05	5.24
27	Uttarakhand	11.62	8.25	10.48	3.35	11.26	11.60
28	Uttar Pradesh	30.40	479.35	26.06	118.84	29.43	598.19
29	West Bengal	22.52	141.14	14.66	43.83	19.98	184.98
30	Puducherry	17.06	0.69	6.30	0.55	9.69	1.24
31	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1.57	0.04	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.04
32	Chandigarh	1.64	0.004	22.31	2.34	21.81	2.35
33	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	62.59	1.15	15.38	0.28	39.31	1.43
34	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	12.62	0.26	9.86	0.26
35	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	3.44	0.02	2.77	0.02
	All India	25.70	2166.58	13.70	531.25	21.92	2697.83

Notes: 1. Population as on 1st March 2012 has been used for estimating number of persons below poverty line. (2011 Census population extrapolated)

2. Poverty line of Tamil Nadu has been used for Andaman and Nicobar Island.

3. Urban Poverty Line of Punjab has been used for both rural and urban areas of Chandigarh.

4. Poverty Line of Maharashtra has been used for Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

5. Poverty line of Goa has been used for Daman & Diu.

6. Poverty Line of Kerala has been used for Lakshadweep.
