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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1699
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10TH DECEMBER, 2025

NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY ACT

1699. SMT. HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL:

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

(a) the total number of beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) in Punjab as of 2025;

(b) the ratio of beneficiaries per FPS compared with the national average;

(c) whether the Government proposes to revise the FPS-to-be beneficiary ratio or expand inclusion criteria; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a): The National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013, provides for coverage of 54.79% of the rural and 44.83 % of the urban population in the State of Punjab, for receiving free of cost foodgrains, which at Census 2011 comes to 141.45 lakh persons. The State Government of Punjab has identified beneficiaries upto the maximum permissible limit i.e. 141.45 lakh beneficiaries determined under the Act.

(b) to (d): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is now governed as per the provisions of the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), which is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and State/Union Territory (UT) Governments. Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation and transportation of foodgrains upto the designated depots of the Food Corporation of India. The operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, distribution of foodgrains to eligible beneficiaries under TPDS, issuance of licenses to Fair Price Shops (FPSs), and supervision over and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs), etc rest with the concerned State/UT Government. Thus, the ratio of beneficiaries per FPS may vary from State to State and FPS to FPS.

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Identification of beneficiaries under the Act is under two categories- households covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) to the extent specified by the Central Government and the remaining households as priority households to be identified by the State Governments/ Union Territories (UT) Administrations as per criteria evolved by them, within the coverage determined for the State/UT. Thus, the criteria for identification of beneficiaries under Priority Households Category may vary from State to State depending upon Socio-Economic, demographic conditions of the State.

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