

# DISTRIBUTION OF FOODGRAINS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

IN A GLANCE

August 2020



The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PM-GKAY) is a food security welfare scheme announced by the Government of India for free distribution of foodgrains to vulnerable households. Initially, the scheme was launched for the period of April-June 2020 and was then further extended till November 2020.

All eligible beneficiaries under the current Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) will receive 5 kgs of foodgrains (wheat/rice), and 1 kg of pulses per person, per month, free of cost. The total estimated cost for distribution of foodgrains during April-November 2020 is around ₹1,48,938 crore.

## KEY INFORMATION

The Union government announced the scheme on 26 March 2020 as part of the ₹1.7 lakh crore Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PM-GKY) relief package. The scheme is operated by Department of Food and Public Distribution (DoFPD) under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (MCAFPD).

The objective of the scheme is to provide adequate foodgrains to all the beneficiaries of the Antyodaya Ann Yojana (AAY), and Priority Household (PHH) ration card holders covered under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) as per the provisions of the National Food Security Act (NFSA).

The salient features of this scheme are:

- A pan-India food security scheme, the financial burden will be borne by the Union government.
- The scheme was recently extended by five more months till November 2020. Earlier, all Priority Households (PHH) under NFSA were eligible to receive double their usual allocations for three months - April, May and June. Each Antyodaya Ann Yojana (AAY) beneficiary was also eligible to receive 5 kgs of grains (wheat/rice) per month over and above their normal quota of 35 kgs per card, per month.
- The DoFPD has estimated the cost of distribution of foodgrains (rice and wheat) for the period April-November to be around ₹1,22,829 crore. For pulses this stands at ₹11,800 crore.

- Estimated expenditure incurred on the distribution of foodgrains to migrants for two months (May and June) is ₹3,110 crore.
- 80 crore individuals, or roughly two-thirds of India's population, are proposed to be covered by this scheme.

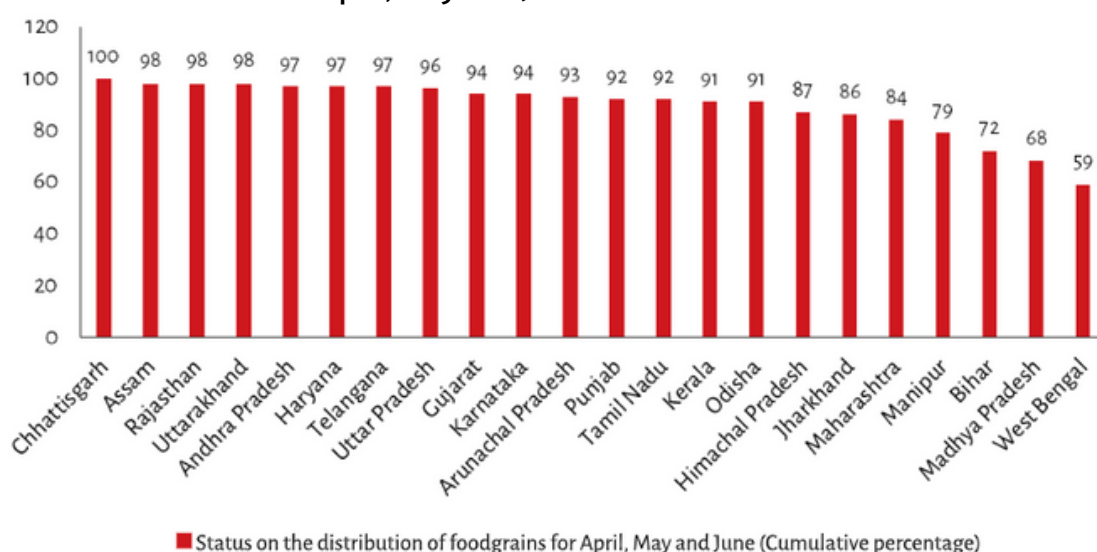
## STATUS OF LIFTING AND DISTRIBUTION UNDER PM-GKAY

As on 9 July 2020, a total of 116.02 Lakh Metric Tonne (LMT) of foodgrains had been lifted by the States/Union Territories (UTs) for April, May and June. Month-wise status of distribution of foodgrains under PM-GKAY stands at:

- In the month of April, 37 LMT (94%) of allocated foodgrains were distributed to 74 crore beneficiaries. The trend was similar in May. In June, 82% of the total allocated foodgrains for the month was distributed to around 64 crore eligible beneficiaries.

Cumulatively, for all the three months, states such as Chhattisgarh had distributed all the allocated foodgrains. In contrast, West Bengal had distributed less than 60% of the total foodgrains allocated.

Cumulative Distribution of Total Allocated Foodgrains for April, May and June under PM-GKAY



Source: [Press Release](#)

## ELIGIBILITY OF MIGRANTS DURING COVID-19

Under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, the Union government has allocated a resource envelope of ₹3,500 crore to provide foodgrains to 8 crore poor migrants and labourers who are not covered under the NFSA or a State's public distribution system. They are eligible to receive 5 kgs of grains per person, per month, for two months- May and June.

A quantity of 8 LMT of foodgrain has been allocated by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to cover all States and UTs.



## STATUS OF LIFTING AND DISTRIBUTION OF FOODGRAINS TO MIGRANTS

- Of the 8 LMT of foodgrains allocated, States and UTs had lifted about 6.39 LMT (80%) as on 9 July 2020.
- However, only 2.32 LMT (36%) of the total allocation has been distributed, covering 2.24 crore beneficiaries in May and 2.25 crore beneficiaries in the month of June.
- Similarly, 32,968 MT of whole gram was allocated, of which only 32% has been distributed.
- The DoFPD has extended the distribution period of the already lifted foodgrain till 31 August 2020.

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### Sources:

1. [Press Release](#)
2. [Press Release](#)
3. [Press Release](#)
4. [Press Release](#)
5. [Press Release](#)
6. [Press Release](#)
7. [Press Release](#)



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