



Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana

Why in News

Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved the extension for the [Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana \(PMGKAY-Phase V\)](#) for a period of another 4 months i.e. December 2021 till March 2022.

Key Points

▪ About:

- PMGKAY is a part of [Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package \(PMGKP\)](#) to help the poor fight the battle against [Covid-19](#).
 - Its nodal Ministry is the **Ministry of Finance**.
- It was initially announced for **a three month period (April, May and June 2020), covering 80 crore ration cardholders**. Later it was extended till November 2020.
 - **Phase-I and Phase-II** of this scheme was operational from **April to June, 2020** and **July to November, 2020** respectively.
 - **Phase-III** of the scheme was operational from **May to June, 2021**.
 - **Phase-IV** of the scheme is currently operational for **July-November, 2021 months**.
- The scheme aimed at providing each person who is covered under the [NFSA \(National Food Security Act 2013\)](#) with an **additional 5 kg grains (wheat or rice) for free**, in addition to the 5 kg of subsidised foodgrain already provided through the [Public Distribution System \(PDS\)](#).
- The new version of the PMGKAY lacks one of its important components which was there in 2020 PMGKAY i.e free-of-cost 1 kg pulses per month to each household covered under the **NFSA**.

▪ Expenditure:

- The government will be incurring an expenditure of nearly Rs.2.60 lakh Crore in PMGKAY Phase I- V.
- PMGKAY-V will entail an estimated **additional food subsidy of Rs. 53344.52 Crore**.

▪ Distribution So Far:

- Under the PMGKAY (phase 1 to 4), a total of almost **600 lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT)** foodgrains has been allocated to the states/UTs, equivalent to about Rs 2.07 lakh crore in food subsidy.
- The distribution under **PMGKAY 4 is presently ongoing**, and as per the reports available from states/UTs so far, 93.8 % food grains have been lifted.

▪ Significance:

- It is significant in a **view of daily wagers and informal sector entrepreneurs** who lost their job in the wake of Covid-19 induced [Lockdown](#).

▪ Challenge:

- A key issue is that the beneficiaries of the NFSA are based on the last census (2011). The **number of food-insecure people has increased** since then and they **remain uncovered**.

Source: PIB

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