



Rise in Food Grain Offtake by States

Why in News

The **food grain procurement by states has risen** sharply due to [relief measures](#) being implemented in the wake of the [Covid-19 pandemic](#).

- The **total amount of rice** utilised by the States and Union Territories (UTs) from the [Food Corporation of India \(FCI\)](#) under the Centre's various schemes is **192.34 lakh tonnes in 2020** as compared to **90.71 lakh tonnes in 2019**.

Key Points

▪ Reasons:

◦ Increased Entitlements:

- After the breakout of the Covid-19 pandemic, it was announced that **Priority Household (PHH)** and **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) cardholders** in the country would receive **free entitlement of 5 kg per person per month**, initially for three months (April to June) and [now extended up to November 2020](#).
 - This was in addition to their entitlement under the [National Food Security Act \(NFSA\) 2013](#).
- The Centre has also announced a scheme for providing wheat and rice to ration cardholders **not covered under the NFSA or Non-Priority Household (NPHH) cardholders** at the rate of Rs. 21 per kg and Rs. 22 per kg respectively.
 - This has been used by Tamil Nadu to provide additional entitlement of rice to about 85.99 lakh such cardholders.

- **Needs of Migrants Labourers:** Aimed at addressing the requirements of [migrant labourers](#) who were not covered under the NFSA or any scheme of the States, the central government announced one more scheme i.e. **distribution of free food grains at 5 kg per person per month for May and June**.

▪ Related Data:

- The data by FCI has revealed that the **seven States** i.e. Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Maharashtra Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka **availed over 60%** of the total quantity of rice during the pandemic.
- As for **wheat**, the rate of increase in offtake was not so high (around 30%). Compared to 59.45 lakh tonnes lifted in the three months of 2019, it was 78.16 lakh tonnes in 2020.
 - **Rajasthan** had drawn the **highest quantity of 14.84 lakh tonnes** of wheat followed by Uttar Pradesh which has drawn 14.01 lakh tonnes.

National Food Security Act

- The enactment of the **National Food Security Act (NFSA) on 5th July 2013** marks a paradigm

shift in the approach to **food security** from welfare to a rights based approach.

- The Act legally entitled **upto 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population** to receive subsidized food grains under the Targeted Public Distribution System.
- Under it, the **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY - launched in 2000) households**, which constitute the poorest of the poor, **continue to receive 35 Kgs** of foodgrains per household per month.
- Households having **Priority Households (PHH) ration cards** are issued **8 kgs i.e. 5 and 3 Kgs of rice** monthly per beneficiaries at the rate of Rs.3 and Rs.15 respectively.
 - 5 kgs is Central Scheme under National Security Act-2013 and 3 kgs is the state scheme.
 - It targets the poor and vulnerable sections of the society such as **landless laborers, marginal farmers and wage earners of the informal sections** of the economy.

Source: TH

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