



Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana

Why in News?

Recently, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution revised the [PMKGAY \(Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana\)](#) allocation of rice and wheat for all the 36 states/UTs for the remaining five months — from May to September 2022.

What is PMGKAY?

▪ 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 were 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 subsidized food grain 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**.

What are the Significance and Challenge?

▪ 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 National Food Security Act are based on the last [census](#) (2011). The number of food-insecure people has increased since then and they remain uncovered.

[Source: IE](#)

