

AMELIORATING PLIGHT WITH PRADHAN MANTRI GARIB KALYAN ANNA YOJAN

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For survival of humanity, food, clothing and shelter which are basic necessities of life are indispensable sans which it would be extremely difficult to sustain livelihood. However, in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic across the world and at a time when our country was reeling due to Covid crisis with hike in Corona cases the ruling dispensation at the Centre forthwith initiated measures to see that no one from Pan India remains hungry and the hardships caused to them during Pandemic are mitigated. As a decisive step in this direction and to ensure proper public distribution system for supply of essential commodities / foodgrains, the Government of India, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, New Delhi, launched and implemented Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY) scheme to provide relief to around 80 crores poor people in the country in combating Covid-19 pandemic.

This scheme which has been implemented in phases was initially implemented for a period of 03 months from [April 2020](#) to [June 2020](#), wherein 5kgs of Rice per person per month and 1 kg of Turdal per Ration Card per month was provided free of cost. In Goa, 5 kgs of Rice per person per month and 1 kg Turdal per ration card per month was provided to the National Food Security (NFSA) beneficiaries i.e. AAY & PHH card holders in the State. During this period 7809 MTs of Rice & 416 MTs of Turdal was distributed by the Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department and benefit was availed by as many as average 5,22,270 beneficiaries in the State of Goa.

This scheme was further extended as Phase-II for a further period of 5 months from [July 2020](#) to [November 2020](#) and the beneficiaries were provided with 5 kgs of Rice per person per month and 1 kg of Chana Whole per Ration Card per month free of cost. During this phase 12,776 MTs of Rice and 680 MTs of Chana Whole was distributed by the Department and about 51,104 number of beneficiaries availed this benefit for a period of 5 months.

On the backdrop of 2nd wave of Covid-19 Pandemic and at a time when the State and the country recorded hike in corona cases this scheme was again extended as Phase-

III for a period of 2 months i.e. from [May 2021](#) to [June 2021](#) and in this phase, NFSA beneficiaries were provided with only 5 kgs of Rice per month per card free of cost. During this phase 5351 MTs of Rice was distributed and about 5,30,457 beneficiaries availed the benefits.

Benefits under this scheme were extended under as Phase-IV for a period of 5 months from [July 2021](#) to [November 2021](#) and beneficiaries were provided only with 5 kgs of Rice per person per month free of cost. In this phase 13,123 MTs of Rice was distributed and as many as 5,30,000 beneficiaries availed the benefits.

In Goa, in order to extend the benefit of the scheme to the needy and deserving people “Anna Utsav” programme was held in the presence of Chief Minister and then Minister for Civil Supplies at KTCL Hall at Marcel to create awareness about the scheme among the NFSA beneficiaries. Similarly, functions were also held in Canacona and Sanguem Taluka. However, due to enforcement of Model Code of Conduct for the General Elections to the Legislative Assembly Election, functions in other talukas as planned could not be held.

Further, this scheme was again extended as Phase-V by another 4 months from [December 2021](#) to [March 2022](#) and beneficiaries were provided only 5 kgs of Rice per person per month free of cost. In this phase 10,540 MTs of Rice was distributed to NFSA card holders and about 5,25,100 beneficiaries availed the benefits.

Now, this scheme has been further extended as Phase-VI for a further period of 6 months from [April 2022](#) to [September 2022](#). The distribution of free quota under the scheme to the NFSA beneficiaries for the month of April & [May 2022](#) has been distributed in the month of [May 2022](#) and 455136 beneficiaries have availed the benefits.

During current phase, the Department of Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs celebrated “Anna Yojana” under Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav” in all 12 Talukas to highlight and create much needed awareness about the extension of Pradhan Mantra Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY) scheme for six months i.e. from April, 2022 to September, 2022.

A major function at Rajiv Gandhi Kala Mandir, Ponda, was held on [May 4, 2022](#) in the presence of Minister for Civil Supplies, Shri Ravi Naik, Minister for WRD & Cooperation, Shri. Subhash Shirodkar and Director of Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Shri. Sudhir Kerkar. The Department of Civil Supplies and Consumer A

ffairs, distributed foodgrains bags duly branded with scheme specially for the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY) at the hands of Shri Ravi Naik to some selected National Food Security beneficiaries of Ponda Taluka.

The State Government is committed to ameliorate the plight of the poor and in order to improve their living conditions, the Government headed by Chief Minister, Dr. Pramod Sawant has been implementing various Welfare Schemes. To mention a few like Laadli Laxmi, Griha Aadhar and Dayanand Social Security Scheme. In addition to this, Government is also implementing Centrally Sponsored Schemes through its various Departments. These wide ranging schemes/ programmes includes Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, Pradhan Mantri Ujwala Yojana, Poshan Abhiyan, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural and Urban) Jal Jeevan Mission and Amrut, Pradhan Mantri Swanidhi Yojana, one nation one Ration Card, Ayushman Bharat PM Anna Arogya Yojana, Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness centres and Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana.

However, the efforts of the Government in this direction will yield desired and productive results provided the people of the State come forward to supplement the endeavors of the Government in ensuring effective implementation of Welfare schemes aimed at improving their living conditions.

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