

Bill Summary

The National Food Security Bill, 2011

- The National Food Security Bill, 2011 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 22, 2011 by K.V. Thomas, the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. The Bill seeks to provide for food and nutritional security by providing specific entitlements to certain groups.
- The Bill specifies that up to 75 percent of the rural population and 50 percent of the urban population shall be entitled to foodgrains. Of these, at least 46 percent and 28 percent, respectively, shall be categorised as priority groups (the rest are “general”). Entitlements provided to these groups and others are listed in the table below.

Group	Entitlement
Priority	7kg foodgrains per person per month at Rs 3/kg for wheat, Rs 2/kg for rice, and Rs 1/kg for coarse grains
General	3kg foodgrains per person per month at 50% of minimum support price (MSP)
Pregnant women and lactating mothers	Meal during pregnancy and 6 months thereafter, and Rs 1000 for 6 months
Children, 6 months to 6 years	Free meal at local anganwadi
Children, 6 to 14 years	Mid-day meal at school
Destitute persons	One free meal per day
Homeless persons	Affordable meals at community kitchens
Starving persons	Two free meals per day for 6 months

- The central government may prescribe guidelines for identification of priority households, general households, and exclusion criteria. Identification shall be done by state governments or such other agency as decided by the central government. The list of identified priority and general households shall be displayed prominently in the public domain.
- In the case of non-supply of foodgrains or meals to persons entitled under the Bill, such persons shall be entitled to receive a food security allowance from the state government.
- District Grievance Redressal Officers shall be appointed by state governments. The central government and every state government shall

constitute a National and State Food Commission, respectively, for monitoring and reviewing implementation of the Act. Public servants found guilty by either commission of failing to provide relief recommended by a District Grievance Redressal Officer shall be fined up to Rs 5000.

- The central government shall provide foodgrains to state governments with respect to entitlements under the Bill (except for priority and general households) at prices specified in the Bill. It shall (a) procure foodgrains for the central pool; (b) allocate foodgrains to states; (c) provide for transportation of foodgrains to depots in each state; and (d) create and maintain modern and scientific storage facilities. In case of short of foodgrains, the central government shall provide funds to state governments to the extent of such short supply.
- It shall be the responsibility of every state government to (a) create and maintain scientific storage sites; (b) suitably strengthen capacities of their Food and Civil Supplies Corporations; and (c) establish institutionalised licensing for FPS.
- Every local authority, as authorised by the state government, shall conduct or cause periodic social audits on the functioning of FPS, TPDS, and other welfare scheme, and take any necessary action. The findings shall be publicised. In addition, every state government shall set up Vigilance Committees at the state, district, block, and FPS levels.
- The Bill states that the central and state governments shall undertake reforms of the TPDS, including: (a) doorstep delivery of foodgrains; (b) application of information technology and computerisation; (c) leveraging aadhar for unique identification; (d) full transparency of records; (e) preference to public bodies in licensing of fair price shops and management of such shops by women or their collectives; (f) diversification of commodities offered by TPDS; (g) support to local public distribution models and grain banks; and (h) schemes such as cash transfer and food coupons in lieu of foodgrains.

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