# NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY ACT, 2013

AAY Beneficiary & Public Distribution System Readiness Checklist | Legal position reviewed 12 November 2026

**Important legal-status warning: The National Food Security (Amendment) Bill, 2026 is presently identifiable in official Department material as a draft consultation proposal. The Department invited comments until 13 July 2026. The draft has not been treated in this checklist as an Act in force. No Gazette commencement date is assumed. Existing entitlements continue unless and until a valid amendment is enacted and commenced.**

## 1. Check your current ration entitlement

[ ] Confirm whether the household ration card is marked Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) or Priority Household (PHH). Do not assume the two categories have the same monthly quantity.

[ ] Under the present NFSA framework, AAY households are entitled to 35 kg of foodgrains per household per month; PHH entitlement is 5 kg per person per month.

[ ] Under the current PMGKAY decision, eligible AAY and PHH beneficiaries receive their NFSA entitlement free of cost for five years from 1 January 2024. Check the latest Central and State directions for operational details.

[ ] Check that all eligible household members are correctly recorded on the ration card and that additions, deletions, deaths, migration or changes in household composition have been properly updated.

[ ] Keep the ration card number, beneficiary details, FPS name and monthly distribution receipts or ePoS slips in a safe place.

## 2. Understand the 2026 draft proposal — it is not yet law

[ ] The draft proposes 7 kg per person per month for AAY households, subject to a maximum of 35 kg per household per month.

[ ] Read the household cap together with the per-person figure. On the draft wording, a 1-, 2-, 3- or 4-member AAY household would calculate to 7, 14, 21 or 28 kg respectively; a 5-member household reaches the 35 kg cap.

[ ] This arithmetic appears to reduce the current 35 kg household entitlement for AAY households with fewer than five members. The Government has also publicly stated that there should be no reduction to any beneficiary. Treat this as an issue requiring clarification in any final Bill, not as a settled change.

[ ] Do not accept a ration-shop reduction solely because a draft Bill was published. Ask for the applicable enacted provision, Gazette notification and State implementation order.

| AAY household size | Present NFSA monthly quantity | Draft arithmetic only |
|---|---|---|
| 1 member | 35 kg | 7 kg |
| 2 members | 35 kg | 14 kg |
| 3 members | 35 kg | 21 kg |
| 4 members | 35 kg | 28 kg |
| 5 or more members | 35 kg | 35 kg maximum; above five, effective per-person quantity falls below 7 kg |

## 3. Portability, authentication and distribution records

[ ] If you migrate for work, ask whether your State/FPS is enabled for One Nation One Ration Card portability. The existing ration card can generally be used at an ePoS-enabled Fair Price Shop under the portability framework.

[ ] If biometric authentication fails, ask the FPS dealer to record the failed transaction and follow the State's notified exception or alternate-authentication process. Do not assume that a failed fingerprint alone extinguishes statutory entitlement.

[ ] Check the quantity actually issued against the quantity shown in the ePoS receipt. Keep SMS alerts, transaction slips and any complaint acknowledgement.

[ ] If foodgrains are not supplied, are short-weighed, or an unauthorised charge is demanded, record the date, shop, quantity, amount demanded, names of witnesses and any available evidence.

## 4. Grievance and accountability route

[ ] First make a dated complaint to the designated State/UT food and civil supplies authority or the notified local grievance channel. Keep the complaint number and copy.

[ ] The NFSA provides for a District Grievance Redressal Officer (Section 15) and a State Food Commission (Section 16). Verify the officer and Commission contact details for your State.

[ ] Section 8 provides for a food security allowance where an entitled person is not supplied the entitled quantity of foodgrains or meals, subject to the Act and applicable rules.

[ ] Use the toll-free food/PDS helpline 1967 where available, and check the State Food Department website for current escalation procedures.

[ ] For a serious or repeated denial, preserve all records before approaching the State Food Commission, an appropriate court or a legal aid authority. The correct forum depends on the facts and applicable State procedure.

## 5. What State authorities and FPS operators should monitor

[ ] Monitor the final text, if any, of the National Food Security (Amendment) Bill, 2026 and any later parliamentary introduction, amendment, assent and Gazette commencement notification.

[ ] Do not update allocation software, beneficiary ledgers or FPS instructions on the basis of the consultation draft alone.

[ ] If a final amendment is enacted, check transitional provisions, State-wise allocation directions, operational instructions, ePoS changes and public communication before implementation.

[ ] Maintain transparent stock registers, ePoS transaction records, weighing equipment, display boards and complaint registers in accordance with applicable Central and State orders.

## 6. Primary-source reading list

Department of Food and Public Distribution — Draft National Food Security (Amendment) Bill, 2026 consultation notice and draft text: https://dfpd.gov.in/WriteReadData/Notices/87b4c79f-0200-4a16-b6c4-1b841d8cb1bb_Inviting%20comments%20on%20NFS%20%28Amendment%29%20Bill%2C%202026.pdf
India Code — National Food Security Act, 2013: https://www.indiacode.nic.in/handle/123456789/2113
DFPD — PMGKAY: https://dfpd.gov.in/pradhan-mantri-garib-kalyan-anna-yojana/en
DFPD — One Nation One Ration Card FAQs: https://dfpd.gov.in/faqs/en
Supreme Court — Swaraj Abhiyan (II) v. Union of India, W.P. (C) No. 857 of 2015, judgment dated 13 May 2016: https://api.sci.gov.in/jonew/judis/43635.pdf

**Disclaimer: This is an educational readiness aid, not an official ration-card form, a representation to a public authority, or a legal opinion. It does not change existing entitlements. Verify the latest Central and State notifications, scheme instructions and individual eligibility before taking action.**