

INVITING COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026

The Government of India has taken several steps to strengthen the food and nutritional security in a human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantities of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto through the National Food Security Act, 2013. The Department of Food and Public Distribution is in the process of considering an amendment to the National Food Security Act, 2013.

2. Under the National Food Security Act, 2013, while Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households constitute the poorest of the poor and are legally entitled to receive 35 kg of foodgrains per family per month, the Priority Households are entitled to 5 kg of foodgrains per person per month. The existing household-based entitlement under Antyodaya Anna Yojana, though intended as a protective measure for the most vulnerable families, results in significant inequities depending upon the size of the household. Smaller households receive a higher per-capita entitlement, whereas larger households receive a lower per-capita entitlement, which may fall below the entitlement available to priority households.

3. The aim and purpose are to remove intra-category inequities, provide for more rational food grain allocation and better align entitlements with nutritional requirements.

4. In view thereof, the National Food Security (Amendment) Bill, 2026 and a tabular statement depicting existing provisions and proposed amendments have been prepared.

5. The Department now invites comments/feedback from the public as part of the public consultation exercise on the draft amendments. Comments on the draft Bill may be sent by email to suneel.sachdeva@nic.in and saurabhomar.edu@gov.in by 13.07.2026.

	THE NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026 A Bill	
	further to amend the National Food Security Act, 2013.	
	BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows: —	
	1. (1) This Act may be called the National Food Security (Amendment) Act, 2026.	Short title and commencement.
	(2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.	
Amendment of section 3.	2. In section 3 of the National Food Security Act, 2013 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), in sub-section (1), the first proviso shall be substituted with the following proviso, namely: -	(20 of 2013)
	Provided that every person belonging to households covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojana shall, to such extent as may be specified by the Central Government for each State in the said scheme, be entitled to seven kilograms of foodgrains per person per month at the prices specified in Schedule I. Provided also that households covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojana shall be entitled to a maximum of 35 kilograms of foodgrains per household per month at the prices specified in Schedule I.	

TABULAR STATEMENT ON AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY ACT, 2013

Section	Existing Provision	Proposed Amendments
<p>First proviso to sub-Section (1) of Section 3</p>	<p>Provided that the households covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojana shall, to such extent as may be specified by the Central Government for each State in the said scheme, be entitled to thirty-five kilograms of foodgrains per household per month at the prices specified in Schedule I</p>	<p>Provided that every person belonging to households covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojana shall, to such extent as may be specified by the Central Government for each State in the said scheme, be entitled to seven kilograms of foodgrains per person per month at the prices specified in Schedule I.</p> <p>Provided also that households covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojana shall be entitled to a maximum of 35 kilograms of foodgrains per household per month at the prices specified in Schedule I.</p>