



Delayed and Denied: Injustice in COVID-19 Relief Maharashtra Factsheet



How well are COVID-19 related entitlements announced by the Central Government, under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyaan Yojana, reaching the poor and the marginalised? An assessment of the extent of realisation of key entitlements of the relief package across 25,032 Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households in India, by the National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR).



Percentage of respondents who replied ■ No ■ Yes

SC respondents **ST respondents**

Ayushman Bharat: Free testing and treatment for COVID19



Category	SC respondents (n)	SC No (%)	SC Yes (%)	ST respondents (n)	ST No (%)	ST Yes (%)
Households visited by the health workers for checking symptoms	2,483	42%	58%	380	52%	48%
Awareness about free testing and treatment under the Scheme	2,303	55%	45%	428	78%	22%
Households enrolled with the Scheme	2,252	86%	14%	425	97%	3%

The scheme provides Rs. 5 lakh insurance cover to the poor, especially those determined by the Socio-Economic Caste Census 2011. The assessment found that a marked proportion of the SC and ST households were not visited by the healthcare workers, and a majority lacked awareness about medical assistance announced through the Ayushman Bharat scheme. Moreover, an insubstantial proportion of households are enrolled with the Scheme.

Ujjwala Yojana: Free gas cylinders for 3-months



Category	SC respondents (n)	SC No (%)	SC Yes (%)	ST respondents (n)	ST No (%)	ST Yes (%)
Awareness about relief announced under the Scheme	2,524	48%	52%	436	71%	29%
Households enrolled with the Scheme	2,459	49%	51%	420	71%	29%
Status of realisation of the entitlement	1,267	55%	45%	125	77%	23%

The scheme was launched in 2016 for the women of Below Poverty Line families, to safeguard their health by providing them with clean cooking fuel (LPG). The assessment shows moderate to high levels of ignorance about the entitlement, enrolment and realisation among the priority SC and ST households. The ST households are largely left-out by the Scheme, and correspondingly minor scale of realisation of entitlement is self-explanatory.

MGNREGS: Enhanced wages



Category	SC respondents (n)	SC No (%)	SC Yes (%)	ST respondents (n)	ST No (%)	ST Yes (%)
Awareness about enhanced wages post COVID19 lock-down	2,368	75%	25%	438	67%	33%
Respondents enrolled with the Scheme	2,388	78%	22%	437	66%	34%
Status of realisation of the entitlement	512	97%	3%	148	100%	0%

Under the COVID-19 Relief Package, the Centre increased MGNREGS daily wages by Rs 20 from April 1, 2020, making it Rs 202 per day. The assessment reveals a high level of ignorance about the wage increase among the SC and ST households, and appalling low enrolment. This directly translates into near nil realisation of entitlement by registered workers, despite government directives to allow work while upholding physical distancing norms.

Jan Dhan Yojana: Ex-gratia amount of Rs. 500 for women



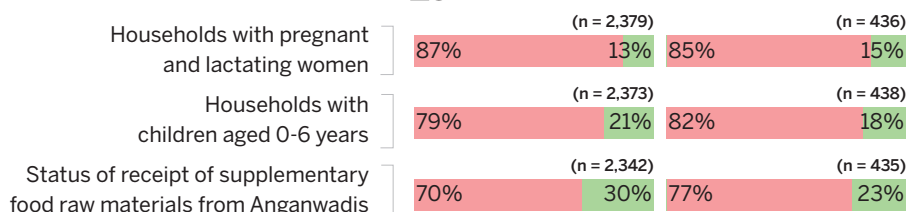
Category	SC respondents (n)	SC No (%)	SC Yes (%)	ST respondents (n)	ST No (%)	ST Yes (%)
Awareness about financial assistance announced under the Scheme	2,353	52%	48%	433	64%	36%
Respondents enrolled with the Scheme	2,375	61%	39%	431	68%	32%
Active bank account, availed the benefit	835	56%	44%	142	79%	21%

The scheme was launched in 2014 to ensure financial inclusion of the poor, with zero-balance bank accounts. In COVID, direct transfer of Rs 500 was announced for women account holders. The assessment reveals low awareness about the monetary assistance announced, with accompanying lower coverage of the SC and ST households, and realisation. This deprived them of much-needed assistance to manage amidst loss of livelihoods in the pandemic.

Percentage of respondents who replied ■ No ■ Yes

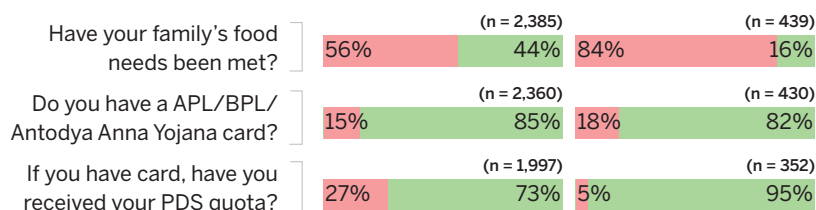
SC respondents ST respondents

ICDS: Home delivery of raw material



The COVID-19 Relief Package provided for the delivery of raw supplementary food material by the Anganwadi workers to the households with pregnant / lactating women and children aged 0-6 years. Of the eligible households, a dissatisfactory proportion of households were delivered provisions at their doorsteps, despite high risk of malnutrition, hunger and diseases.

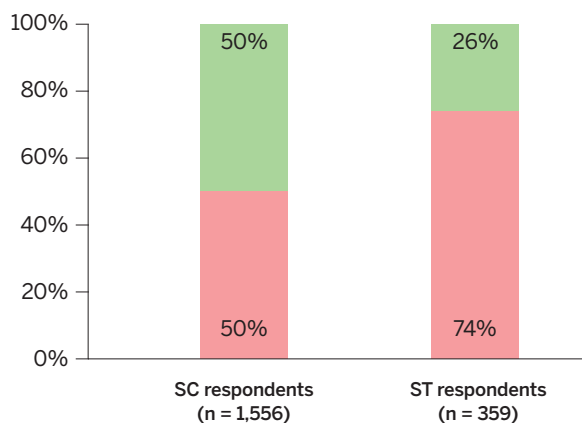
Public Distribution Scheme: Additional /free food-grains



The COVID-19 Relief Package included free 5kg cereal and 1kg pulses from April to June through the Public Distribution System for ration card holders. The assessment found that a majority of the SC and ST households had secured foodgrains. A majority of the STs reportedly secured partial quota of foodgrains with half of the SC households stating the same. A large share of the SCs and substantial proportion of STs reported poor quality.

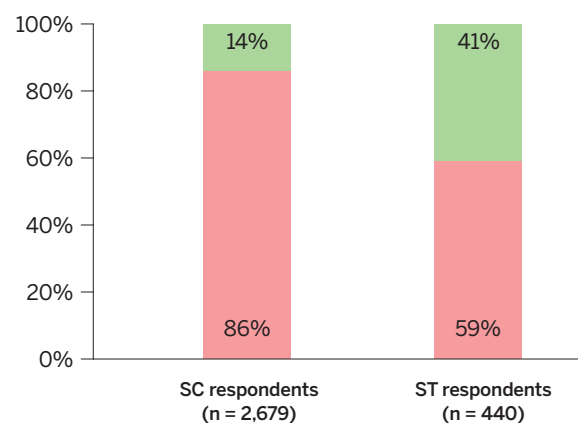
How much of your PDS quota have you received?

■ Partial ■ Full



Is the quality of ration/food distributed good?

■ Poor ■ Good



Methodology: The NCDHR is conducting a phase-wise inclusion assessment of the awareness, enrolment, and the extent of realisation of COVID related national and state relief entitlements announced by the Central Government, by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes across the states in India. The process aims to enable greater inclusion and realisation of the social protection schemes by the SC and ST communities to enhance their capacity to cope with the pandemic. This is done by sharing real-time information and appeals with the district and state authorities for urgent action. Conducted on a mobile app by a network of local partners and hundreds of volunteers, the first phase of the survey was conducted from April 16-May 25, 2020.

Factsheet design: How India Lives (www.howindialives.com)