



# Delayed and Denied: Injustice in COVID-19 Relief Odisha Factsheet



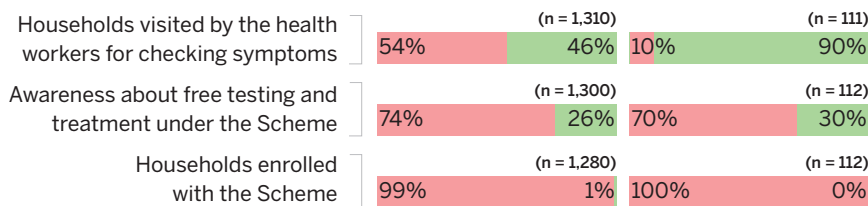
How well are COVID-19 related entitlements announced by the Central Government, under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyaan Yojana, reaching the poor and the marginalised? An assessment of the extent of realisation of key entitlements of the relief package across 25,032 Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe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



Percentage of respondents who replied ■ No ■ Yes

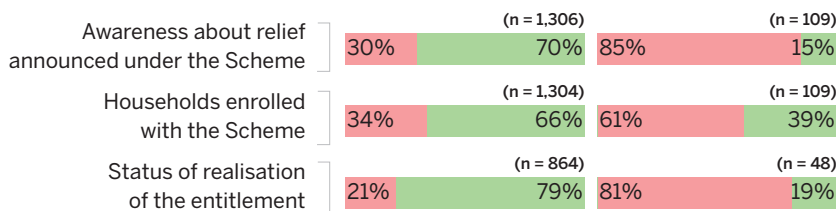
**SC respondents**      **ST respondents**

### Ayushman Bharat: Free testing and treatment for COVID19



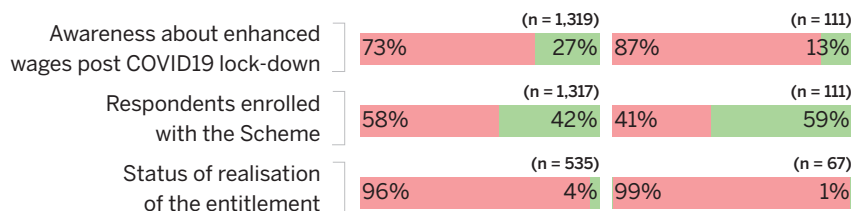
The scheme provides Rs. 5 lakh insurance cover to the poor, especially those determined by the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011. The assessment shows a reasonable proportion of the SC and ST households were visited by healthcare workers post the lockdown. However, a greater proportion were unaware of free medical assistance for COVID19 under Ayushman Bharat Scheme, coupled with almost nil enrolment of these households.

### Ujjwala Yojana: Free gas cylinders for 3-months



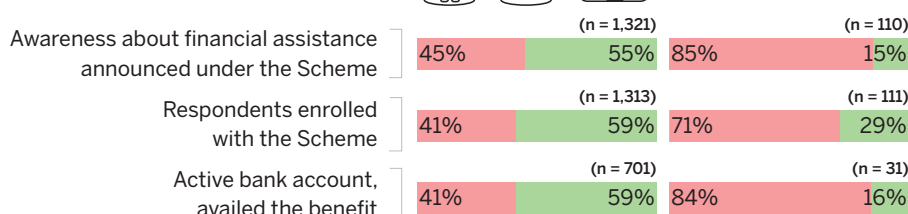
The scheme was launched in 2016 for women of Below Poverty Line families, to safeguard their health by providing them with clean cooking fuel (LPG). The entitlement is found to be satisfactorily implemented among the SCs. But among the small number of the ST households, a great lack of awareness about the entitlement, minuscule enrolment and realisation of the entitlement is discovered.

### MGNREGS: Enhanced wages



Under the COVID-19 Relief Package, the Centre enhanced MGNREGS wages by Rs 20 from April 1, 2020, making it Rs 202 per day. The assessment shows extreme ignorance among SCs and STs, with a sizeable section of their households not enrolled with the Scheme and poor realisation of entitlement. Significant coverage gap has by default deprived the poor households of income assistance in the lockdown.

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

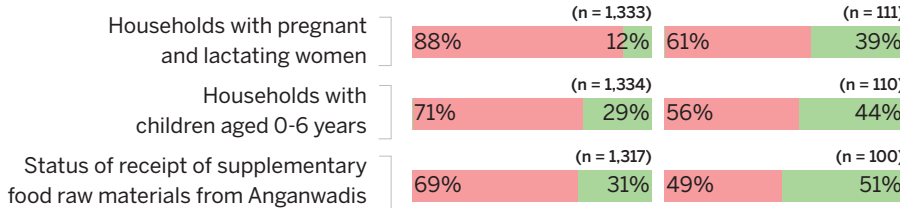


The scheme was launched in 2014 to ensure financial inclusion of the poor, with zero-balance bank accounts. In COVID, direct transfer of Rs 500 was announced for women account holders. The assessment shows a great lack of awareness about the entitlement, poor enrolment and deficient realisation of entitlement, especially by the ST households. The findings also show remarkably low awareness, enrolment and realisation of the entitlement by the SC households.

Percentage of respondents who replied ■ No ■ Yes

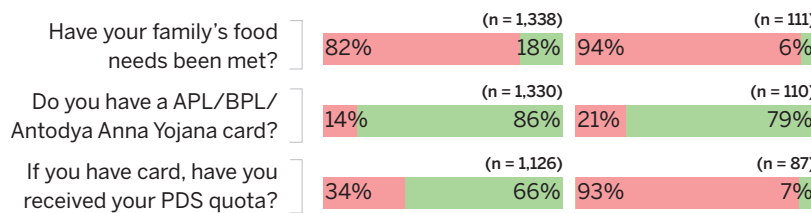
SC respondents ST respondents

**ICDS: Home delivery of raw material**



The COVID-19 Relief Package provided for delivery of raw supplementary food material by the Anganwadi workers to the households with pregnant / lactating women and children aged 0-6 years. Among eligible SC and ST households, a glaring absence of assistance is seen. The delay and denial of timely assistance enhances the risk of hunger, malnutrition and diseases among the already highly vulnerable SC and ST women and children.

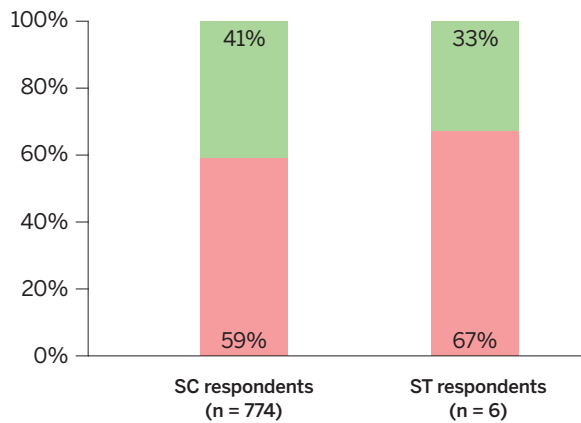
**Public Distribution Scheme: Additional /free food-grains**



The COVID-19 Relief Package included free 5kg cereal and 1 kg pulses from April to June through the Public Distribution System for ration card holders. Though, a majority of the SC and ST had received the entitlement, a large chunk of these household received only partial quota of the entitled food grains, which explains the unmet food needs of these families. The quality is reported to be reasonably good as compared to findings from other key states surveyed.

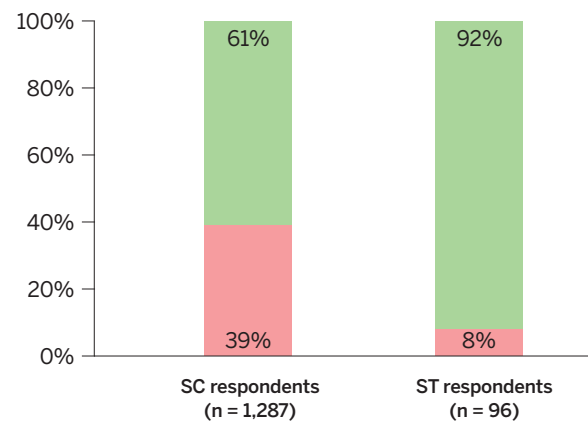
**How much of your PDS quota have you received?**

■ 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](http://www.howindialives.com))