

# HUNGER WATCH

---

Situation of Hunger and Food Security in Post-Covid Times

# Who did we talk to?

- Spoke to nearly 4,000 respondents across 11 states
- Uttar Pradesh (967), Madhya Pradesh(558), Gujarat(403), Rajasthan(374), Maharashtra(249), Chhattisgarh(187), Jharkhand(179), Delhi(146), Telangana(81), Tamil Nadu(66) and West Bengal(784)
- Almost equally split between rural and urban

# Profile of Respondents and Purpose

- 79% of the respondents had income less than Rs 7,000 per month before the lockdown.
- Purposively sampled marginalised and excluded communities.
- A little over half of the respondents were women.
- Compared the situation pre-lockdown, in April-May and in September-October.
- **Caveat:** Can't compare inter-state variation owing to differing profiles and sample sizes.

# Discrimination

- One in four Dalits and one in four Muslims report they faced discrimination in accessing food since lockdown.
- About 12% of Adivasis faced discrimination.
- This was one in ten among those in the 'General' category.

# Incomes still remain affected

- About 43% of them had no income in April-May. Of them, only about 3% have gone back to income levels of what it was before lockdown.
- 56% of with no income in April-May still had no income.
- Income levels of 62% have reduced compared to pre-lockdown.
- Among those whose income reduced, for about one in four respondents, the income was half of what they earned before lockdown.

## Income in September-October compared to pre-lockdown

State	No change (%)	Income has reduced (%)	There is no income (%)
CG	4	55	36
DL	1	49	42
GJ	11	51	31
JH	4	63	31
MH	6	61	32
MP	6	53	35
RJ	3	67	26
TG	4	78	17
TN	18	53	20
UP	5	60	31
WB	7	77	14
<b>Overall</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>28</b>

## Consumption of cereals, pulses, vegetables and non-veg “decreased a lot”

- 53% reported that their consumption of rice/wheat has decreased and for about one in four it has “decreased a lot.”
- 64% reported that their consumption of dal has decreased of which about 28% reported that it has “decreased a lot.”
- 73% reported that their consumption of green vegetables has decreased and for about 38% it has “decreased a lot.”
- About 17% said they consumed eggs/nonveg ‘often’ before the lockdown. Among them, 91% said that their eggs/meat consumption has decreased in September-October and a staggering 58% said that it has “decreased a lot.”

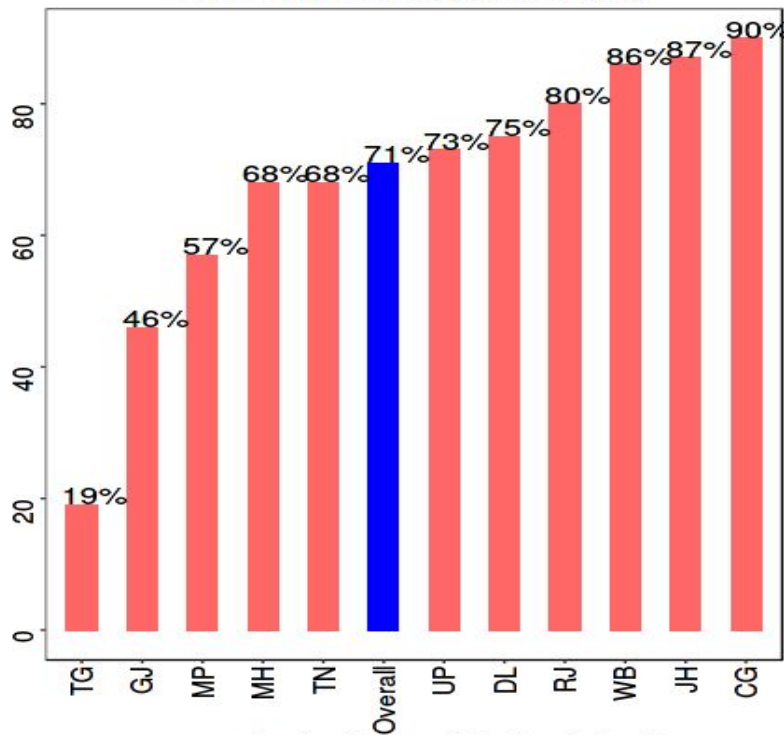
## % Decrease in Consumption of Food Items Across States

State	Rice/Wheat	Dal/ Sambar/Dalma	Green Vegetables
CG	48	70	77
DL	81	81	71
GJ	38	41	58
JH	65	83	82
MH	52	67	76
MP	41	51	64
RJ	77	78	84
TG	22	17	17
TN	50	65	74
UP	46	64	74
WB	66	72	82
<b>Overall</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>73</b>



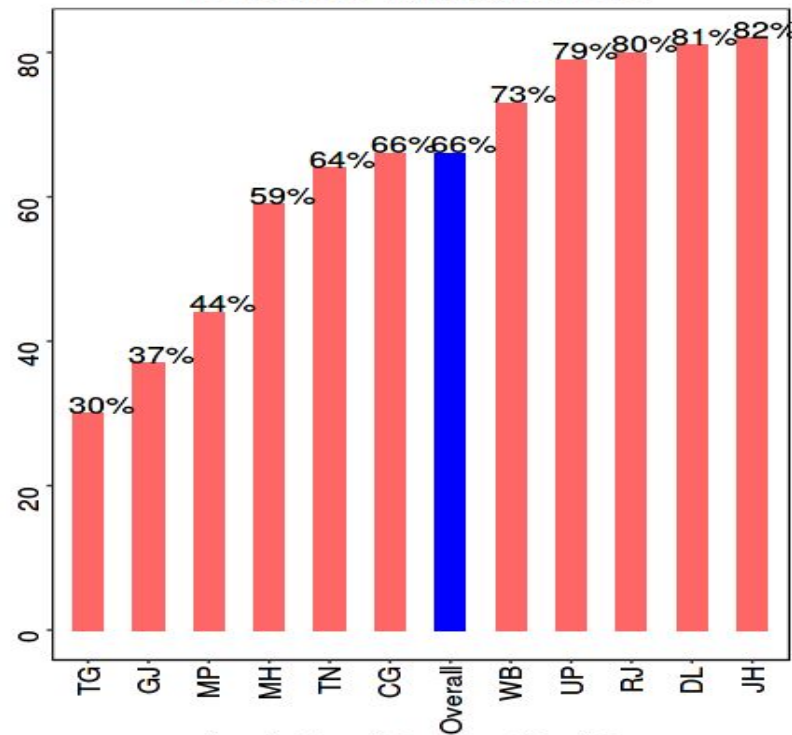
# Overall decline in nutritional quality and quantity, even the relatively better off affected badly

## Worsening Nutritional Quality



% stating that the Nutritional Quality of their Diets in Sept/Oct is Worse than Pre-lockdown

## Decreased Quantity of Food

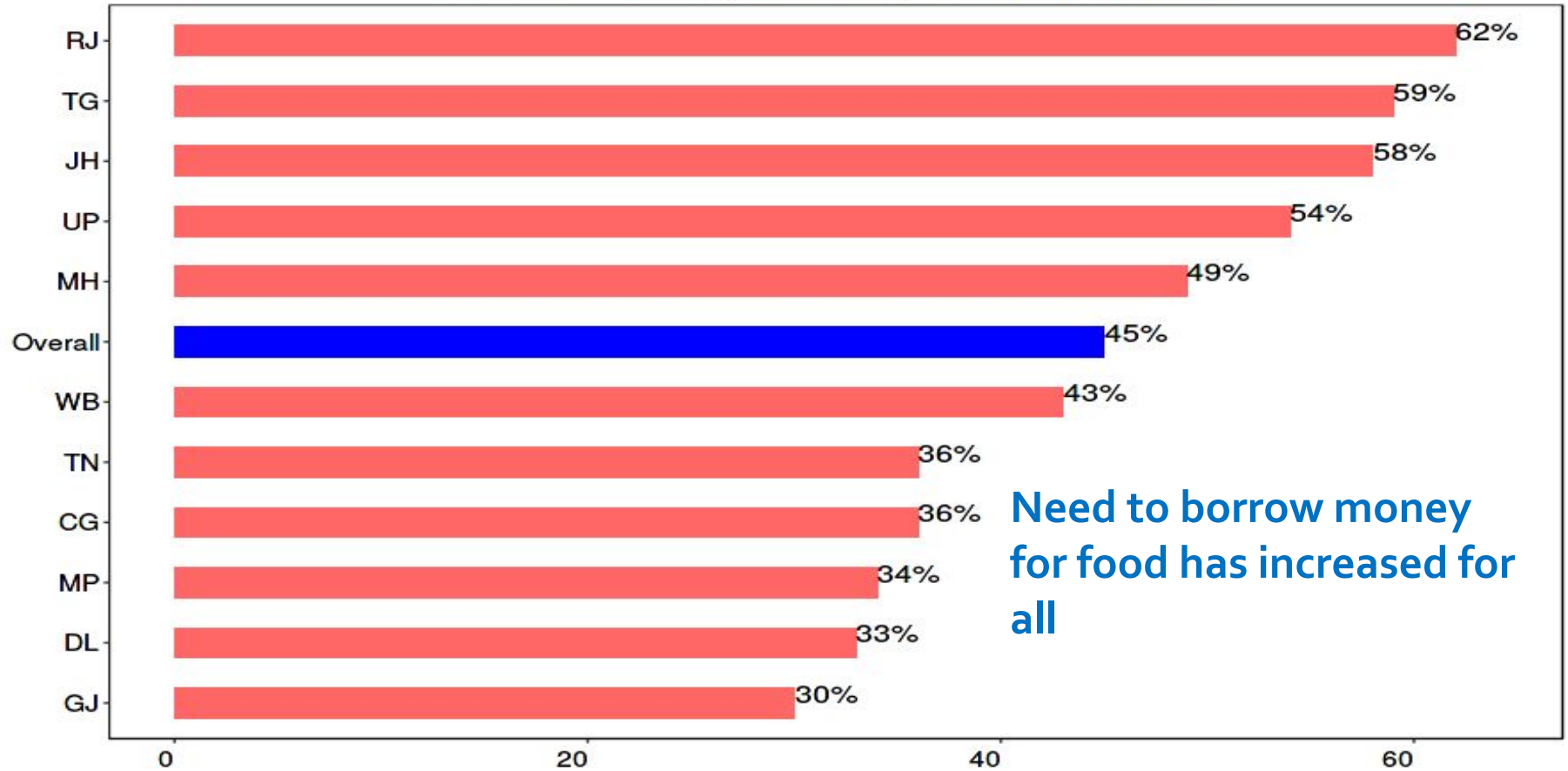


% stating that the Overall Quantity of Food Consumption has Reduced in Sept/Oct compared to Pre-lockdown

# Large proportion skip meals & go to bed hungry

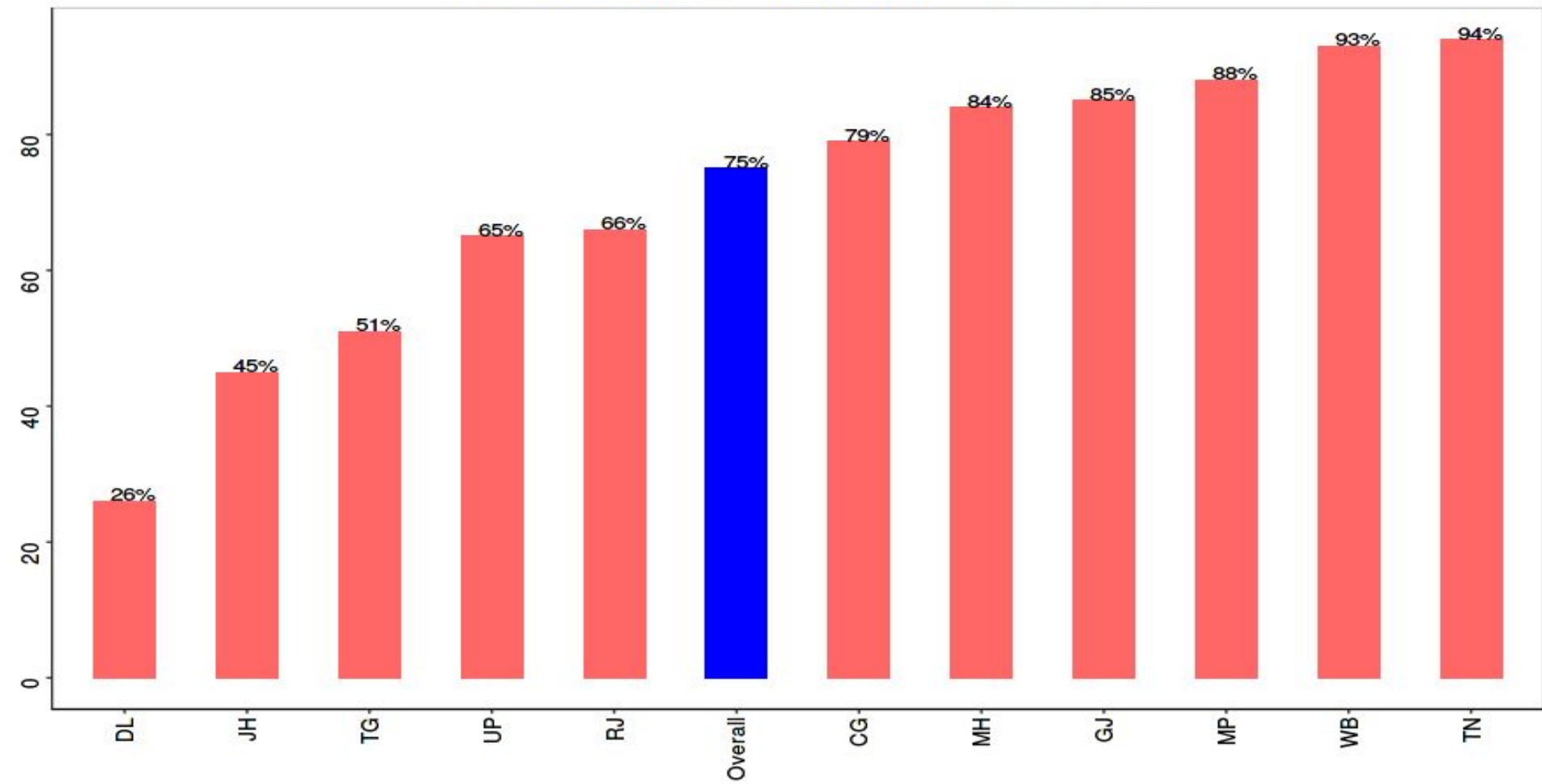
- About 56% of the respondents never had to skip meals before lockdown.
- Of them, one in seven had to either skip meals 'often' or 'sometimes' in September-October
- In September-October, about 27% respondents sometimes went to bed without eating.
- About one in 20 households **often** went to bed without eating.

## % Respondents who said that they Need to Borrow Money for Food has Increased in Sept/Oct Compared to Pre-lockdown

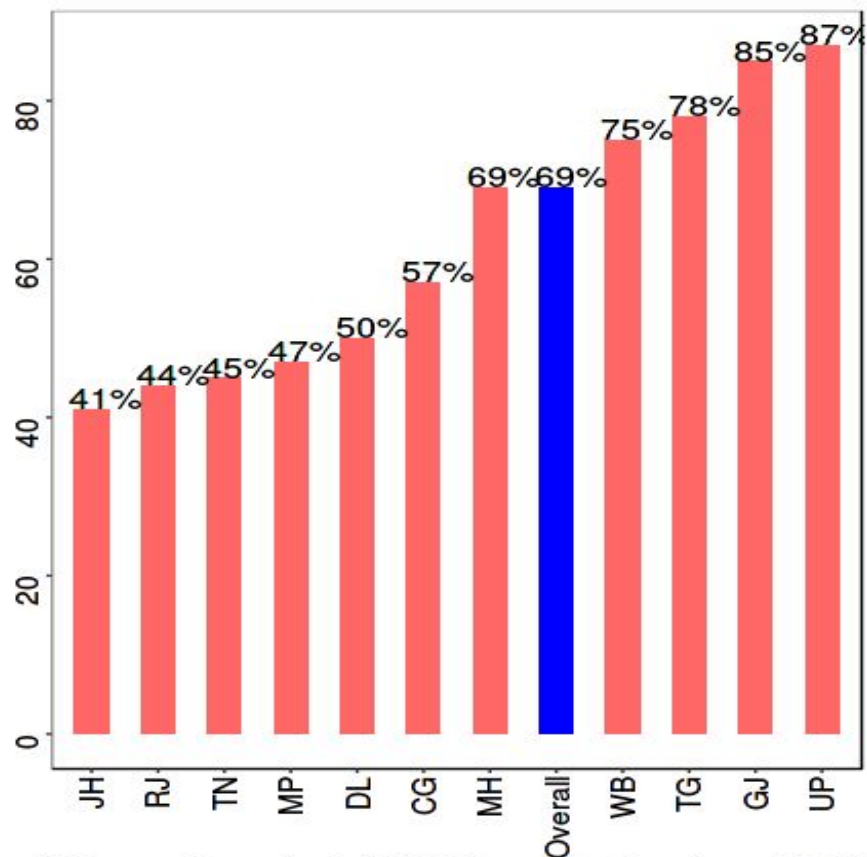


Need to borrow money  
for food has increased for  
all

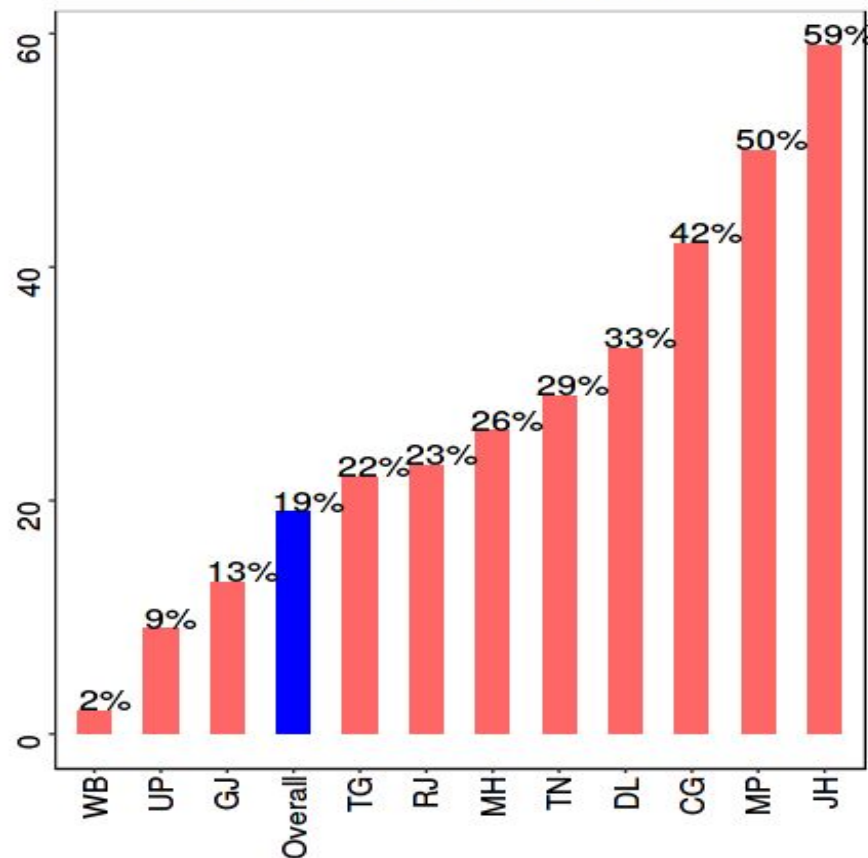
**Percentage of Respondents with a Ration Card**



### Received free additional Food Grains under PDS every Month

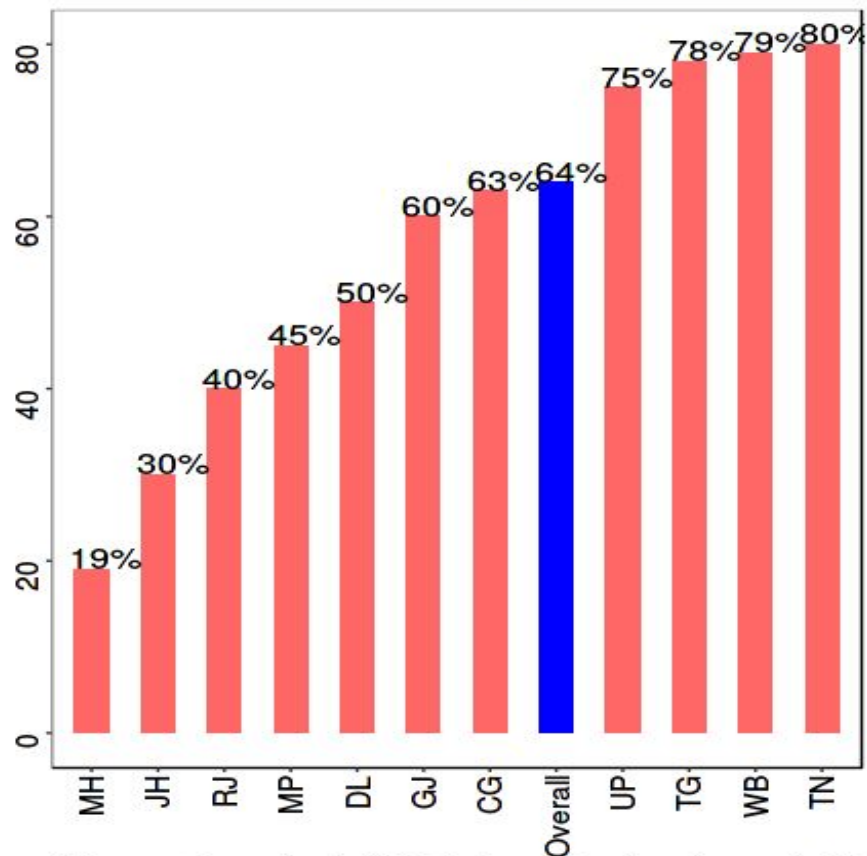


### Received free additional Food Grains under PDS but not every Month

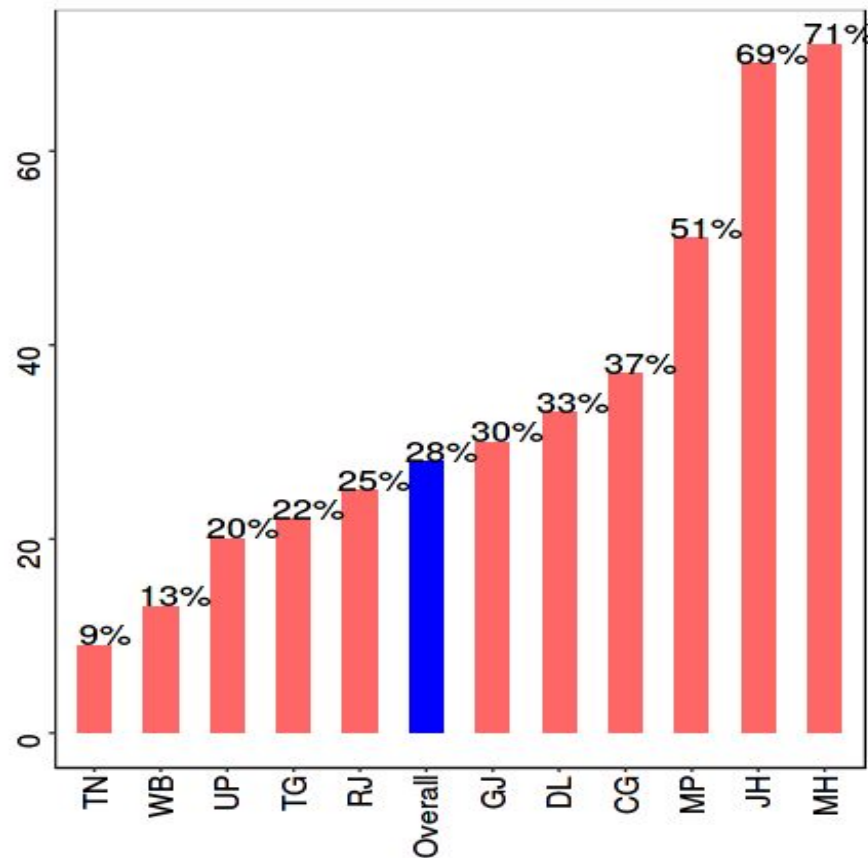


(\*) Among those who had NFSA Ration Cards and were Eligible for PMGKAY (N=1715)

### Received free additional Dal/Chana under PDS every Month

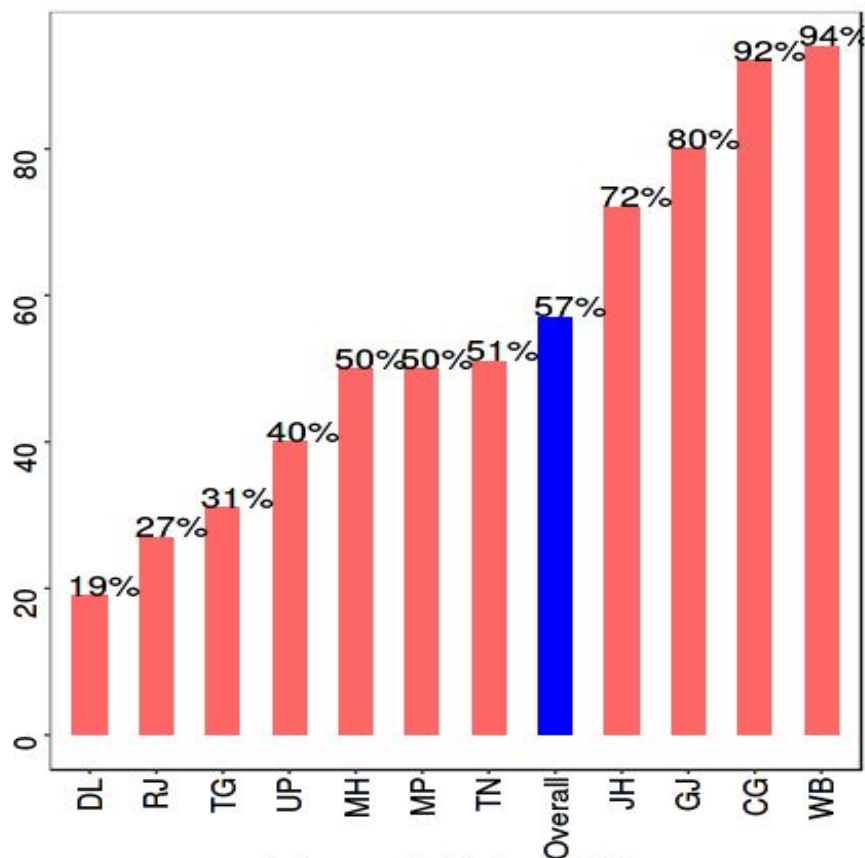


### Received free additional Dal/Chana under PDS but not every Month



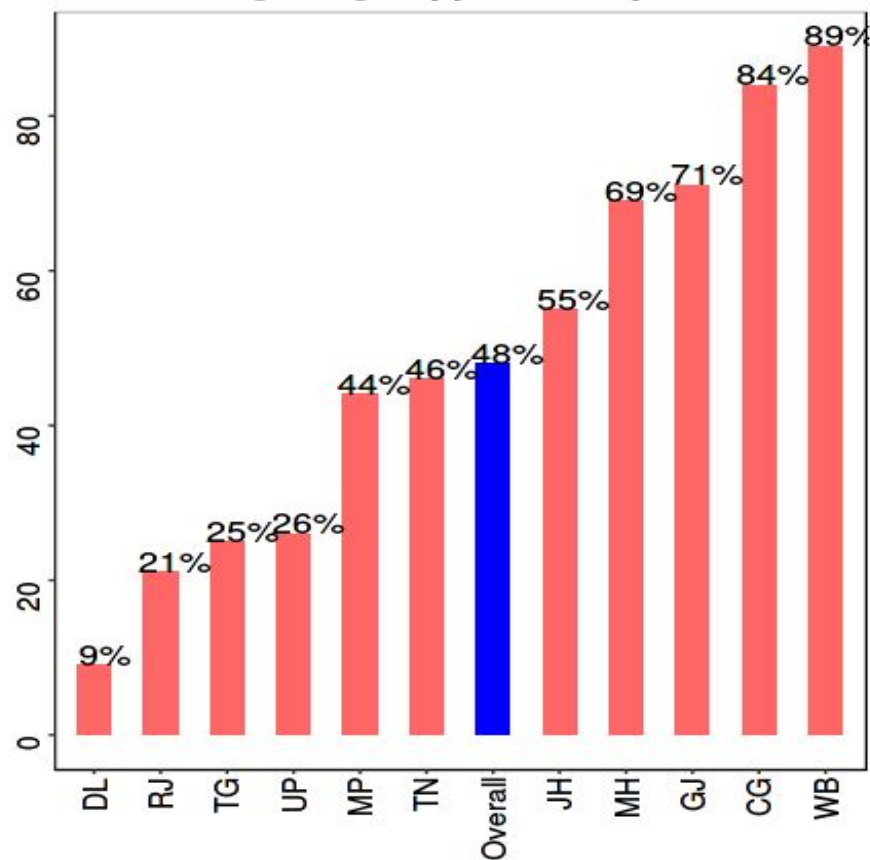
(\*) Among those who had NFSA Ration Cards and were eligible for PMGKAY (N=1715)

### School going Child getting Mid Day Meals



\* Among eligible households.  
(N=2531 for mid day meals and N=2125 for ICDS)

### Child under Age Six, Pregnant or Lactating Women getting Supplementary Nutrition



# Demands

- Provide a universal PDS with 10 kg grain, 1.5 kg pulses and 800 gm cooking oil per month for every individual for at least the next six months (June 2021)
- Provide nutritious hot cooked meals, including eggs, through ICDS and mid-day meals.
- Ensure revival of all ICDS/nutrition services with all safeguards
- Implement universal and unconditional maternity entitlements and availability of child care services
- Expand NREGA to 200 days of employment per household at minimum wages and timely payment
- Initiate urban employment guarantee programmes
- Provide Social Security Pensions of ₹2000 per month to old, disabled, single women
- Repeal the Farm Acts and take steps to guarantee MSPs, expand procurement to other food crops
- Strengthen FCI for decentralised procurement and linking with nutrition programmes