

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 31  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2022**

**Introducing millets in Mid-Day Meal Scheme**

**31. Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy:**

Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government urged States to explore the possibility of introducing millets in PM-Poshan, a new avatar of Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that NITI Aayog is also propagating for introduction of millets in MDMS; and
- (d) the reasons why the Central Government cannot provide financial assistance to States to provide millets in MDMS?

**ANSWER  
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)**

- (a) & (b): In order to enhance nutrition among children Central Government requested State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to explore the possibility of introducing millets under PM POSHAN Scheme preferably in the districts where eating millets is a culturally accepted food habit. It is suggested to introduce millets (coarse grains) based menu once a week and also conduct cooking competitions among Cook-cum-Helpers to popularize millet based recipes. It is also suggested to prepare small videos for creating awareness about the goodness of millets and showcase them in schools and consumption of millets may be discussed during the School Management Committees (SMCs) and Parent Teachers Meeting (PTM).
- (c): NITI Aayog is also promoting introduction of millets in PM POSHAN Scheme and conducted a national consultation with State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. During consultation best practices on millets from Odisha, Telangana and Karnataka have been shared with other State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.
- (d): The Scheme provides for 3 types of food grains i.e. wheat, rice and coarse grains. Food grains are allocated as proposed by State Governments/Union Territory Administrations as per their requirement in Annual Work Plan & Budget (AWP&B) and approved by Program Approval Board of the Scheme. The food grains are allocated biannually by the Department of School Education and Literacy with the concurrence of Department of Food and Public Distribution. It is also mentioned that the entire cost of foodgrains is borne by Central Government.

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