

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1514
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29TH JULY, 2022

DISTRIBUTION OF MILLETS UNDER PDS

1514 SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India is one of the major millets producing countries in the world;
- (b) whether it is a fact that there are huge health benefits of millets;
- (c) in view of emphasis being given on nutrition to children, girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers, the reasons for not providing millets to people under Public Distribution System (PDS);
- (d) as declared by UN that 2023 to be the International Year of Millets, efforts being made by Government for distributing more and more millets to the people;
- (e) whether Government has distributed millets under PMGKAY; and
- (f) if so, the reasons for stopping its distribution?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a): Yes Sir, India is one of the major producer of the millets in the world. The production of millets in India has increased from 14.52 million tonnes in 2015-16 to 18.02 million tonnes in 2020-21.

(b): Millets contain high amount of protein, fiber and minerals. Based on available research findings, major health benefits are summarized as under

- (a) High dietary fiber provides hunger satisfaction and helps reduce obesity.
- (b) Reduce the risk of Diabetes & Cardio Vascular Diseases.
- (c) Beneficial in treating and prevention of gallstones and stomach ulcers.
- (d) Nutritionally dense and reduces anemia liver disorder and asthma.
- (e) Lowers blood glucose response and reduce the risk of Type II Diabetes.
- (f) Rich in antioxidants and hence reduce oxidative stress.
- (g) Reduce the occurrence of hypertension

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(c): Millets (which are covered under MSP) are already a part of Public Distribution System (PDS) and Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme.

(d): To obviate difficulties being faced by some States in procurement/distribution of coarse grains/millets (which are covered under MSP) and to increase their procurement under Central Pool, the distribution period of these commodities has been increased to 6-10 months from the earlier period of 3 months. This would increase procurement and consumption of these commodities as the States would have more time to distribute these commodities in Target Public Distribution System/ Other Welfare Scheme.

(e): No Sir. Under PMGKAY, wheat and rice are distributed to the beneficiaries.

(f): Doesn't arise.
