

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2000
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17TH MARCH, 2023

DECLARATION OF INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF MILLETS BY UN

2000 SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY:

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

- (a) the efforts Ministry is making to push production of millets in the country in view of declaring 2023 as International year of millets by Food and Agricultural Organisation of the UN;
- (b) whether it is a fact that millets are more nutritious than rice and wheat;
- (c) if so, whether there is any proposal to add, at least, 25 per cent of PDS rice and wheat with millets and also distributing millets under Mid-Day Meal Scheme;
- (d) if so, details thereof;
- (e) whether it is a fact that Government has identified Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar for the use of millets; and
- (f) if so, details thereof?

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

(a): To promote and increase the production and productivity of millets (jowar, Bajra, ragi and small millets) the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has been implementing a Sub-Mission on Nutri-cereals (Millets) under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) since, 2018-19. Currently, NFSM-Nutri-Cereals (Millets) is being implemented in 212 districts of 14 States of the country and 89 districts of 9 States are covered in NFSM-Nutri-Cereals (Pearl Millets) programme. North eastern and Hilly States have been given flexibility to implement the programme as per their need in any district.

Under NFSM-Nutri-Cereals, the incentives are provided to farmers through the States/UTs, on crop production & protection technologies, cropping system based demonstrations, production and distribution of certified seeds of newly released varieties/hybrids, Integrated Nutrient and Pest Management techniques, improved farm implements/tools/resource conservation machineries, water saving devices, capacity building of farmers through trainings during cropping season, organizing events/workshops, distribution of minikits, publicity through print and electronic media etc.

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(b): Yes Sir. Millets are superior to rice and wheat in their nutritional composition.

(c)&(d): Government makes allocation of coarse grains(millets) under Public Distribution System(PDS) and Other Welfare Schemes, including Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN/Mid-Day Meal Scheme) Schemes based on the requirement projected by the State Govts., Department of School Education & Literacy, subject to the availability of coarse grains(millets).

(e)&(f): No Sir. However, Government has requested all States/UTs to procure and distribute millets under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS). Presently, State Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand and Karnataka have planned to distribute millets under TPDS/OWS.
