

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 04.12.2009
ANSWERED ON
NATIONAL POLICY ON MILLET .

1704

Dr. E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether Government has formulated any `National Policy on Millet` as India is the top producer of Millet in the world with 10.6 million tonnes per year and domestic consumer and exporter with value addition;
- (b) if so, the strategies formulated to increase the production by fixing the Minimum Support Price and for exploring possibility of evolving decentralized multigrain and need based PDS suiting to the local condition; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION)

(SHRI K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (c): No. Sir. However, National Agriculture Policy (July 2000) focused for special efforts to raise the production and productivity of crops to meet the increasing demand for food. Accordingly, to enhance the production and productivity of cereals including millet, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of `Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Coarse Cereals (excluding Maize) Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP- Coarse Cereals)` under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture is in operation in the major coarse cereals growing states in the country. Besides, frontline demonstrations of coarse cereals are also organized by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)/State Agriculture Universities on farmer`s field to popularize the frontier technologies among farmers. Under this scheme, assistance is given to the farmers for distribution of seed minikits, distribution of certified seeds, micronutrients, gypsum, as well as transfer of technology through field demonstrations and training of farmers in farmer field schools. The Government of India announces Minimum support price (MSP) every year for jowar, bajra and ragi. MSP has been increased for jowar and bajra from Rs. 540/- per quintal in 2007-08 to Rs. 840/- per quintal in 2009-10 and Rs. 600/- per quintal in 2007-08 to Rs. 915/- per quintal in 2009-10 for ragi, respectively. The Department of Food and Public distribution makes allocation of coarse grains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) as per the requests of the States/UTs for the same for Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) categories. The coarse grains are allocated for AAY and BPL categories by submitting equal quantities of rice and/or wheat as requested by the States/UTs since allocation of food grains (rice and wheat) is already being made to these categories as per their entitlement i.e. @ 35 kgs. per family per month. However, for APL category, coarse grains are allocated based on requests received from State Governments in addition to their existing allocation of food grains where there is margin between the present allocation and the entitled maximum quantity of 35 kgs. per APL family per month.