

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. 28

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 21ST JULY, 2023

HIGH PRICES OF MILLETS

*28 #. SMT. MAHUA MAJI

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the price of indigenous foodgrains like jowar, bajra, and ragi is very high in spite of the Central and State Governments promoting millets as a health enhancing foodgrain;
- (b) whether Government proposes to reduce the price of such foodgrains;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (d) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 28 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 21/07/2023.

(a) to (d): The year 2023 has been declared the International Year of Millets by the United Nations on the proposal initiated by the Government of India. The Government is celebrating the International Year of Millets to make it a people's movement so that value-added products are accepted globally. Both the Central and State Governments have taken numerous steps for promoting millets (Shree Anna). The action plan of IYoM 2023 focuses on a strategy to enhance production, productivity, consumption, export, strengthening the value chains, branding and also creating awareness for health benefits etc.

To increase the production of Nutri Cereals for meeting their enhanced demand, the Central Government is implementing the National Food Security Mission-Nutri Cereals (NFSM-Nutri Cereals). The interventions covered under NFSM-Nutri Cereals include cluster front line demonstrations on improved package of practices, seed distribution & micronutrients, biofertilizers, production of certified seeds of High Yielding Varieties (HYVs), plant protection chemicals, weedicides, sprayer, efficient water application tools, cropping system based training. Seed Hubs for millets have also been set up. Further interventions include breeder seed production, production of certified seeds, distribution of seed minikits etc. Further, States such as Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Bihar have initiated Millet Missions in the States to promote millets.

The Government also incentivises farmers to increase the production and productivity of millets through Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana. It has also fixed the MSP for major millets to ensure that farmers get remunerative prices.

To increase the production of millets based products, a Productivity Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme has been notified by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries in June 2022. Millets are also included under the Poshan Abhiyan of the Ministry of Women and Child Development. Further, the Ministry of Food and Public Distribution has revised its guidelines to increase the procurement of millets under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and Mid-Day Meal. The Ministry has also advised the State Governments and Union Territories to increase the procurement of millets.

Due to the above efforts of both the Central and State Governments, there has been an increased awareness about health benefits and enhanced demand for millets. The Government is committed to ensure remunerative prices to farmers so that the production and supply increase and keep the prices moderated.
