

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2105
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 13/12/2024

**TRANSITION FROM WATER INTENSIVE CROPS FOR SUSTAINABLE
AGRICULTURE**

2105. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA

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

- (a) whether the Government is taking measures to ensure transition from water intensive crops in order to ensure sustainable agriculture;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government is looking to provide for mandatory Minimum Support Price (MSP) and procurement of such crops;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the proposed measure to be taken in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (c): The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing Crop Diversification Programme (CDP) under Pradhan Mantri- Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY), in Original Green Revolution States viz., Haryana, Punjab and western Uttar Pradesh to divert the area of water intensive paddy crop to alternative crops like pulses, oilseeds, coarse cereals, nutri cereals, cotton etc.

Further, Government of India is supplementing the efforts of state governments to encourage farmers to grow low water intensive crops such as pulses, coarse cereals, nutri cereals (Shree Anna) under National Food Security & Nutrition Mission (NFSNM), oilseeds under National Mission on Edible Oil (NMEO)-Oilseeds, horticultural crops under Mission for Integrated Development of horticulture (MIDH). The Government of India also provides flexibility to the states for state specific needs/priorities under Pradhan Mantri – Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY). The states can promote crop diversification under PM-RKVY with the approval of State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC).

(d) to (f): Government fixes minimum support prices (MSPs) for 22 mandated agricultural crops on the basis of the recommendations of the commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP), after considering the views of State Governments and Central Ministries/ Departments concerned.

As per Guidelines of Department of Food and Public Distribution on procurement, allocation, distribution and disposal of coarse grains, States are allowed to procure Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Barley, Ragi and six minor millets from farmers at MSP under central pool subject to the prior approval of Government of India, in consultation with Food Corporation of India (FCI).

For increasing the procurement and consumption of coarse grains/millets, the guidelines has been revised for allocation, distribution and disposal of coarse grains procured by the State Agencies/FCI and enhanced the distribution period to 6-10 months from earlier period 3 months. Provision of inter-state transportation of surplus millets through FCI had also been incorporated. In order to further widen scope of procurement of coarse grains/millets, the procurement of following minor/pseudo millets has been allowed for 3 years (from 2023) at cost based on the MSP of Ragi:

Minor Millet- Foxtail Millet (Kangani/Kakun), Proso Millet (Cheena), Kodo Millet (Kodo),
Little Millet (Kutki)

Pseudo Millets- (Buck-wheat (kuttu) and Ameranthus (Chaulai).”

Procurement of pulses and oilseeds is made at MSP as per the schemes under Pradhan Mantri - Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) scheme of DA&FW. The procurement of Notified Pulses are done under Price support Scheme (PSS) by the Central Nodal Agencies through State designated Agencies during harvesting season. Cotton and Jute are also procured by Government at MSP through Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) and Jute Corporation of India (JCI), respectively, under the scheme implemented by Ministry of Textiles.
