

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

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 213
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 19/12/2025

PROMOTION OF MILLETS

*213. DR. ANIL SUKHDEORAO BONDE:

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

- (a) whether Government is taking steps to promote millets in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is encouraging production of quality seeds for millet;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of research and extension activities undertaken by Government during the last three years for promotion of millets in the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN)

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

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.213 TO BE ANSWERED ON 19/12/2025 REGARDING “PROMOTION OF MILLETS”

(a) & (b): The Government has taken various initiatives to promote millet cultivation, processing and consumption across the country alongwith incentivizing food processing units, start-ups, and exporters engaged in millet-based products. In 2023, the International Year of Millets (IYM) was celebrated and it successfully raised awareness about the nutritional and health benefits of millet consumption and facilitated discourse on important issues related to millets which included its production, value chain development, market linkages and research.

To increase the production and productivity of millets (Shree Anna), the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is implementing a Sub Mission on Nutri-Cereals under the National Food Security & Nutrition Mission (NFSNM) in the country and various interventions benefitting the farmers and the millet sector are implemented through the scheme.

In addition, the Government of India also assists States to promote millets under the Detailed Project Report (DPR) component of the Pradhan Mantri - Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM RKVY) according to their own needs and priorities.

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) is implementing the Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Millet-Based Products (PLISMBP) to promote the use of millets in food products and encourage value addition. To facilitate the export of millets and millet-based products, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has undertaken several initiatives, including capacity-building programmes, virtual buyer-seller meets, global marketing campaigns, e-catalogues and establishment of an Export Promotion Forum (EPF) to strengthen the export ecosystem for millets. In addition, assistance is being extended to start-ups engaged in the development of value-added millet products, particularly in the Ready-to-Cook (RTC) and Ready-to-Eat (RTE) segments. Millets have also been integrated in major national nutrition and welfare programmes.

(c) to (e): The DA&FW advises the States and seed producing agencies from time to time to place the breeder seeds indents of newly released High Yielding Varieties (HYVs) of different crops including millets for further multiplication into foundation and certified seeds, so as to make available required seeds of these crop varieties to the farmers in the Country. A total of 2588 Qtl. of Breeder seeds of various millets have been produced during last 3 years (2022-25) against the indent of 1290 quintals for further seed multiplication, as reported by ICAR.

Further, as reported by the States, sufficient certified/quality seeds of millets were available in the country during last two years and the current year availability of millet seeds is 6.65 lakh quintals.

The Government of India has recognized the ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), Hyderabad as “Global Centre of Excellence on Millets”. To strengthen the research collaboration and public awareness of millets globally, a new initiative viz., “**Millets And otHer Ancient GRains International ReSearch Initiative (MAHARISHI)**” has been adopted since the G20 Presidency.

In recent years, 110 Millets varieties have been released by the ICAR for cultivation in different agro-ecologies of country. Forty millet varieties have been developed and released during 2014-25 for cultivation on farmer’s field under drought/moisture stress tolerant/water stress/low rainfall areas. In addition to developing high yielding climate resilient varieties of millets, the ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), Hyderabad is extending support as a knowledge partner with various State Millet Mission/Agriculture departments intended to increase public awareness on the health benefits of millets and their suitability for cultivation under tough conditions marked by climate change.

Under the National Food Security and Nutrition Mission (NFSNM), the financial assistance is available/provided for different seed related activities, so that sufficient seeds could be made available to the farmers.
