

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1456
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 12/12/2025

**POLICY AND PROGRAMMES FOR TRANSITION FROM FOOD SECURITY TO
NUTRITION SECURITY**

1456. SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:

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

- (a) details of the steps taken by Government to shift from food security to nutrition security, along with related Policy and Programmes;
- (b) whether Government proposes to balance food grain procurement with incentivising farmers to produce more nutritious crops, including MSP support, procurement guarantees or value-chain initiatives for nutrient-rich crops;
- (c) whether Government plans to adjust existing nutritional schemes to strongly align with nutrition security goals; and
- (d) details of the steps taken by scientific institutions, State Agricultural Universities and biotechnology research bodies to scale up research, production and distribution of nutrition-sensitive agriculture?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (d): The Government of India has taken several measures to ensure food and nutrition security. The Government of India has enacted the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 to provide food and nutrition security in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity.

The National Food Security Act also provides that the pregnant women and lactating mothers and children in the age group of 6 months to 14 years are entitled to meals as per prescribed nutritional norms under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and PM-POSHAN schemes. Higher nutritional norms are prescribed for malnourished children upto 6 years of age.

Further, in order to achieve uniform nutritional impact among the targeted population, the Government of India is supplying fortified rice throughout the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) Scheme, and Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme and in Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) in all States and Union Territories (UTs). The initiative aims to provide fortified rice enriched with essential micronutrients such as iron, folic acid, and vitamin B12, adhering to the standards set by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

To encourage more nutri rich crops, government has taken supportive measures such as remunerative MSP and procurement. In order to improve the level of nutrition among beneficiaries covered under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), advisory has been issued to all the States/UTs to procure millets and distribute to beneficiaries as per local consumption preferences and the guidelines issued by Central Government.

While the National Food Security & Nutrition Mission (NFSNM) is being implemented to increase production of Rice, Wheat, Coarse Cereals (Maize & Barley) and Nutri-Cereals (Shree Anna) through area expansion and productivity enhancement, the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 guarantees their equitable distribution. NFSA legally entitles up to 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population to subsidized (presently free of cost) food grains through the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), ensuring that vulnerable households receive adequate food and nutrition. Together, NFSNM and NFSA form the backbone of India's food security framework, one driving production, the other ensuring distribution, thereby combining productivity gains with inclusive growth, sustainability, and nutritional security.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) implemented a programme on Nutri-Smart Village to reach out 75 villages across India through the network of All India Coordinated Research Project on Women in Agriculture. The objectives of the programme were to promote nutritional awareness, education and behavioural change in rural areas involving farm women and school children; to harness traditional knowledge through the local recipe to overcome malnutrition; and to implement nutrition-sensitive agriculture through homestead agriculture and Nutri-garden.

As part of its activities, the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs) are implementing Nutri-Sensitive Agricultural Resources and Innovations (NARI) for creating awareness on health and nutrition literacy. KVKs conduct on-farm trials, frontline demonstrations, training programmes and extension activities on various aspects of NARI including nutri-thali, nutrition garden, bio-fortified crop varieties, etc.

During the last 11 years (2014-25), a total of 185 bio-fortified (rich in protein, zinc, iron, Lysine, tryptophan, provitamin-A, etc.) field crops varieties have also been developed for cultivation in the entire country ensuring nutritional security.

Biofortified varieties are also promoted under National Food Security & Nutrition Mission (NFSNM), which is being implemented for increasing the production of Rice, Wheat, Coarse Cereals (Maize & Barley) and Nutri Cereals (Shree Anna). In addition, the Government of India celebrated the year 2023 as the International Year of Millets (IYM) to promote the Millets (Shree Anna) owing to their high nutritive value.
