

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 222
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21ST JULY, 2026

**POLICY FOR DISTRIBUTION OF SHREE ANNA IN THE PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
SYSTEM**

222 # SMT. PHULO DEVI NETAM:

Will the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution be pleased to state:

- (a): whether any special policy has been formulated to increase the distribution of 'Shree Anna' (coarse cereals such as Pearl Millet, Finger Millet and Sorghum) through Fair Price Shops (FPS) for promoting nutritious grains;
- (b): the States which have procured coarse cereals for the Central Pool during the current year and the budgetary provisions made to ensure the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for farmers; and
- (c): whether Government is considering to provide an option to ration card holders in urban areas to choose millets/coarse cereals in place of wheat and rice as per their preference?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)

(a): Allocation, distribution and disposal of coarse grains is regulated by guidelines dated 07.12.2021/28.03.2022/ 08.09.2023. Under these guidelines, States are allowed to procure Jowar (Sorghum), Bajra (Pearl Millet), Maize & Ragi (Finger Millet) in Decentralized Procurement mode from farmers at Minimum Support Price (MSP) for distribution under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)/Other Welfare Schemes(OWS).

Following modifications were made in 2021 to the earlier guidelines to increase procurement and distribution of coarse grains.

- i. Provision of inter-state transportation of surplus millets through FCI had been incorporated.
- ii. Increase in administrative charges on acquisition stage from 1% to 2% of MSP, to incentivise procurement of millets.
- iii. Distribution period/Shelf life of millets was increased in 2022 from earlier 3 months to 6-10 months, thus enhancing higher level of procurement.

iv. The scope of procurement & distribution of millets by States/UTs has been expanded in 2023 by including minor millets: Foxtail Millet (Kangani/Kakun), Proso Millet (Cheena), Kodo Millet (Kodo), Little millet (Kutki), Buck-wheat (kuttu) and Ameranthus (Chaulai) under MSP scheme on the MSP of Ragi upto KMS 2028-29).

(b): The list of States, procured quantity and MSP value paid to farmers during current year is at Annexure I.

There is no constraints on the state to procure millets at MSP for distribution under TPDS/OWS. However, the overall quantity of rice, wheat and Nutri-Cereals has to be within the upper ceiling fixed in respect of each State/UT under National Food Security Act (NFSA).

(c): Millets, in addition to Wheat and Rice, are also part of Public Distribution System(PDS).

As per state's preferences, Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) makes the allocation of approved quantity of millets/coarse cereals for distribution under PDS in lieu of equal quantity of wheat/rice while ensuring that the overall quantity of rice, wheat and Nutri-Cereals has to be within the upper ceiling fixed in respect of each State/UT under NFSA.

STATEMENT SHOWING PROCUREMENT OF COARSEGRAINS

(Figs. in Metric Tonnes)

KMS	COMMODITY	Andhra Pradesh	Gujarat	Haryana	Karnataka	Madhya Pradesh	Maha-rashtra	Uttar Pradesh	Uttara-khand	Tamil Nadu	Total Procurement (MT)	MSP (Rs./qtl)	MSP Value (in crore)
2025-26*	JOWAR(Kharif)				140199	390	5518	43562			189669	3699	701.59
	JOWAR(Rabi)	49852	4882		81620		94113				230467	3699	852.50
	BAJRA(Kharif)		14472	233				213973			228678	2775	634.58
	BAJRA(Rabi)		77637								77637	2775	215.44
	MAIZE(Kharif)		564				100511	13209			114284	2400	274.28
	MAIZE(Rabi)		11843				42366	8899			63108	2400	151.46
	RAGI(Kharif)		13		569331		462		5386	7919	583111	4886	2849.08
	RAGI (Rabi)	4846									4846	4886	23.68
	Total	54698	109411	233	791150	390	242970	279643	5386	7919	1491800		5702.61

*2025-26 procurement is still going on (figures as on 14.07.2026)