

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 497**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2018

**INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF MILLETS**

497. SHRI A. ARUNMOZHITHEVAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has sent a proposal to the United Nations to declare 2018 as the International Year of Millets and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the objective of the proposal is to create awareness about millets amongst consumers, policy makers, industry and R&D sector and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is also laying more stress on the cultivation and consumption of millets and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government has received a suggestion from experts in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. A proposal for declaring 2018 as “**International Year of Millets**” has been sent to United Nations’ Secretary General by Hon’ble Minister of Agriculture & Farmers’ Welfare. Secretary (AC&FW) has also written to Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations in this regard. The objective of the proposal is to create awareness about the promotion of production and consumption of millets through conscious efforts at global level which is likely to contribute substantially in the fight against targeted hunger and mitigate the effect of climate change in long run.

(c): Presently, coarse cereals are being promoted under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) from 2014-15 in 265 districts of 28 States of the country. As per the provisions under National Food Security Act enacted in 2013, food grains including millets are provided for preparation of meals under Supplementary Nutrition programme of Aanganwadi services under the Umbrella Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) at subsidized rates through Public Distribution System.

(d): Millets have high protein, fibre and mineral contents as compared to fine cereals like wheat and rice. Further, millet crops are more superior in terms of nutritive value and health benefits. Millets are drought tolerance, photo-insensitivity, resilient to climate change and grow on poor soil with little or no external input. In addition, use of millets reduces the malnutrition and tackles anemia and micronutrient deficiency commonly found in women and children. Considering the above importance of millets, promotion of Millets has been discussed with experts at various Forums and Government of India is providing necessary support to the concerned State Governments for its promotion.

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