

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 6647
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6TH APRIL, 2018**

PROMOTING USE OF SMALL GRAINS FOR HEALTH BENEFITS

**6647. SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA:
SHRI J.C. DIVAKAR REDDY:**

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to promote/encourage use of small grains for health benefits;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) to (c): An adequate, well balanced diet combined with regular physical activity is the cornerstone of good health. Small grains (millets) are good sources of dietary fibre, protein, vitamins minerals and are gluten - free. Millets include Jowar, Bajra, Ragi and little millets include Kutki, Kodo, Sawa, Kangni and Cheena.

In order to promote small grains (millets) in the country, Government of India has been implementing crop development programmes/schemes like National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). Under NFSM, assistance is provided to the farmers through State Governments for organizing demonstrations on improved production technologies and seed distribution. Besides, Government of India declares Minimum Support Price (MSP) of jowar, bajra and ragi every year to protect the interests of the farmers. Under the programme, three National Centre of Excellences (CoEs) have been established i.e one at CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar for pearl millet and one each at Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad for sorghum and University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru for small millets.

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 Aaganwadi services under the Umbrella of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) at subsidized rates through Public Distribution System (PDS).