

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.31
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7TH DECEMBER, 2022
DIVERSIFYING FOODGRAINS UNDER PDS**

31. SHRI SANJAY KAKA PATIL:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) considering a change in the pattern of nutritional intake among people in both rural and urban areas which indicates a reduced preference for rice and wheat and an increase in preference towards other protein-rich food items, whether the Government plans to incorporate these changes in the commodities distributed under the Public Distribution System;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to diversify foodgrains distributed under PDS to include more sustainable crop production; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

**A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)**

(a) to (d): Under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), highly subsidized foodgrains are provided to States/UTs for distribution to around 80 crore beneficiaries through Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Under the Act, the term "foodgrains" is defined as rice, wheat or coarse grains or any combination thereof conforming to such quality norms as may be determined, by order, by the Central Government from time to time. In addition to this, the State/UT Governments may continue with or formulate food or nutrition based plans or schemes providing for benefits higher than the benefits provided under this Act. Further, in order to address anaemia and micro-nutrient deficiency in the country, Government

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of India approved supply of fortified rice throughout the TPDS, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman – PM POSHAN [erstwhile Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDM)] and Other Welfare Scheme of Government of India in all States/UTs by 2024 in phased manner.
