

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3415
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21ST MARCH,2023

PROMOTING SHREE ANNA

†3415. SHRI SUBRAT PATHAK:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUSHWAHA:
SHRI KHAGEN MURMU:
SHRI B.B. PATIL:
SHRI KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL:
SHRI RAVI KISHAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to make farmers 'Shree Dhan' from 'Shree Anna';
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the schemes being formulated by the Government to promote the cultivation of 'Shri Anna' (coarse grains);
- (c) whether the Government proposes to link the said scheme to any start-up;
- (d) the details of 'Shree Anna Scheme' and the reasons for terming this as 'super food';
- (e) the details of benefits of Shree Anna for farmers and the steps taken/being taken to popularize the same; and
- (f) whether the Government proposes to store more Shree Annas and distribute the same in the regions of higher malnourishment in collaboration with other Ministries and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

- (a) to (e): Millets (Shree Anna) are also known as super food due to high nutritional features and health benefits. Millets are beneficial to the farmers as these are cultivated

with minimal water & inputs. They are cultivated across the country in various agro-ecological regions, having less infestation/infection of pest and diseases and thus can be grown easily as organic crops.

In order to promote millets (Shree Anna), the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing a Sub-Mission on Nutri-Cereals (Millets) under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) in 212 Districts of 14 States since 2018-19. Under NFSM–Nutri Cereals, incentives are provided to the farmers, through the states/UTs, on crop production and protection technologies, cropping system based demonstrations, production & distribution of certified seeds of newly released varieties/hybrids, Integrated Nutrient and Pest Management techniques, improved farm implements/tools/resource conservation machineries, water saving devices, capacity building of farmers through trainings during cropping season, organizing events/workshops, distribution of seed minikits, publicity through print and electronic media etc. The interventions such setting up Centers of Excellence (CoEs) and seed hubs for Nutri Cereals have also been supported under NFSM.

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has approved the Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry for Millet-based products (PLISMBP) for implementation during 2022-23 to 2026-27 with an outlay of Rs. 800 crores. The Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme, launched under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyanis currently being implemented in 35 States and Union Territories (UTs). Government is also popularizing Agri-Infrastructure Fund Scheme to invite farmers/FPOs/Entrepreneurs to avail the benefit of interest subvention on loans up to 2 crores for setting up primary processing units in millets (Shree Anna). To encourage farmers to take up millet cultivation, higher Minimum Support Prices (MSP) to Jowar, Bajra and Ragi has been announced.

Government is supporting millet based startups, with the support and assistance from RKVY, IIMR has incubated and hand-held a total of 142 startups in the last 3 years. Through implementation of RKVY Grant Program, Nutrihub could facilitate startups of various verticals in terms of product innovations & Artificial Intelligence technology interventions in the millet value chain.

(f) Under Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 was enacted on 05.07.2013 to provide subsidized foodgrains to the States/UTs. Schedule-I of the Act envisages distribution of Millets (nutri-cereals / coarse grain) at highly subsidized rate of Rs. 1 per kg in addition to wheat and rice. Millets are already a part of Public Distribution System. The procurement, storage and distribution of Millets by States/UTs is done under Decentralized Procurement (DCP) system.

To improve the nutritional status of maternal and child health in the country, Ministry of Women and Child Development, launched POSHAN Abhiyaan on 8th March, 2018 with an aim to achieve improvement in nutritional status of Children under 6 years, Adolescent Girls, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers. Greater emphasis is being given on the use of millets for preparation of Hot Cooked Meal and Take Home rations (not raw ration) at AnganwadiCentres for Pregnant Women, Lactating Mothers and Children below 6 years of age, as millets have high nutrient content which includes protein, essential fatty acid, dietary fibre, B-Vitamins, minerals such as calcium, iron, zinc, folic acid and other micro-nutrients thus helping to tackle anemia and other micro-nutrient deficiencies common among women and children.
