

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 952**  
**ANSWERED ON 26/07/2023**

**INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF MILLETS**

**952. SHRI SUNIL DATTATRAY TATKARE:**

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that United Nations has accepted the proposal for International Year of Millets 2023;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the Government is planning to formulate specific scheme for development of trade related infrastructure and transport related assistance to the exporters, FPOs/FPCs and traders of Indian Millets;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to penetrate the Global Market of Millets?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY**  
**(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The U.N. General Assembly adopted a resolution, sponsored by India and supported by more than 70 countries, declaring 2023 as the International Year of Millets. The celebration of the International Year of Millets is intended to increase public awareness on the health benefits of millets and their suitability for cultivation under tough conditions marked by climate change.

(c) & (d) The Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Develop Authority (APEDA) has the mandate to promote export of millets. APEDA provides assistance to its registered exporters of millets (including FPOs/FPCs and traders) under Agriculture & Processed Food Export Promotion Scheme of APEDA. The assistance is provided under various components of the schemes viz. Infrastructure Development, Quality Development and Market Development.

(e) The Government, through APEDA, has been working to leverage partnerships with start-ups, academic & research institutions, Indian missions, processors, retailers and exporters to promote Indian

millets in the global markets. An Export Promotion Forum (EPF) dedicated to promoting millets in the international market has been established. The EPF provides a platform for stakeholders to collaborate, share knowledge, and explore opportunities in the global millet market. APEDA is also actively engaged in capacity building, awareness creation and knowledge sharing amongst international stakeholders by organizing virtual Buyer Seller Meets (BSMs), capacity building programs, collaborating with state millet mission programs, conducting FPO meets etc.

A separate millet-specific web portal has been developed containing information about millets, their health benefits, production and export statistics, millet exporter's directory etc. APEDA has also organized a comprehensive global marketing campaign showcasing India's potential and accordingly E-catalogues of 30 importing countries and 21 millet producing states have been released.

A Virtual trade fair (VTF) for millets has been developed and made available for exporters and importers from across the globe providing a single platform to interact and negotiate business deals. VTF is operational for 24X7, 365 days.

APEDA has also organized participation in international trade fairs like BIOFACH - Germany, Gulfood - Dubai , Natural Products Expo West - USA , International Food and Drink (IFE) and BSM - UK , SIAL Food - Canada, [Seoul Food & Hotel – South Korea](#) etc. facilitating exporters to present and promote their millet products in global markets. APEDA is also associating with Indian Missions in importing countries to promote millets and value-added products.

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