

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.709  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024**

**NUTRITIONAL SECURITY**

**709. SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has any plans to increase distribution of millets through public distribution scheme to ensure nutritional security in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken initiatives to raise awareness about benefit of millets among consumers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other measures being taken by the Government to promote consumption of millets in the country?

**A N S W E R**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)**

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(a) & (b): Under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), foodgrains, free of cost, are being provided to States/UTs for distribution to around 80 crore beneficiaries through Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Coarse grains/Millets are also allocated under TPDS in lieu of equal quantity of wheat/rice (as requested by State) while ensuring that the overall quantity of rice, wheat and Coarse grains has to be within the upper ceiling fixed in respect of each State/UT.

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Further, as per Guidelines for procurement, allocation, distribution and disposal of coarse grains, States are allowed to procure Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Barley & Ragi and six minor millets from farmers at MSP for central pool subject to the prior approval of Government of India, in consultation with FCI. The whole quantity is distributed under TPDS /OWS (Other welfare Schemes) in the State/UT.

(c) to (e): The following initiatives were undertaken to raise awareness about benefit of millets among consumers.

- I. United Nations General Assembly declared 2023 as International Year of Millets (IYM) during March, 2021 on the proposal of India. The Government of India has taken a proactive multi-stakeholder engagement approach (engaging various central government Ministries/Departments, States/UTs, farmers, start-ups, exporters, retail businesses, hotels, Indian Embassies etc.) to achieve the objectives of IYM 2023 and taking Indian millets globally.
- II. Millets were promoted during the G20 presidency in India through Millet Culinary carnival, International Trade Events, Chef's Conference, exhibition of Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs), road shows, kisanmelas, Chef's training for paramilitary forces, ASEAN India Millet Festival at Indonesia and Delhi etc.
- III. Global Millets (Shree Anna) Conference was held from 18th - 19th March 2023 at IARI, Pusa Campus, New Delhi which was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.
- IV. To make India a global hub for 'Shree Anna', the Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), Hyderabad has been declared as the Global Centre of Excellence for sharing best practices, research and technologies at the national and international level. IIMR, Hyderabad is also providing training to the farmers, women farmers, home makers, students and young entrepreneurs on manufacturing of value-added millet food products, daily recipes etc., and supporting them to establish self-enterprise.
- V. Towards mainstreaming millets, a 'Millets Experience Centre (MEC)' was opened at Dilli Haat, INA, New Delhi with an aim to raise awareness on Millets and encourage its adoption among general public.

**VI. To encourage consumption of Shree Anna among government employees, all Government offices have been advised to include Shree Anna snacks in departmental trainings/meetings and Shree Anna based food items in departmental canteens.**

**In order to increase the production & productivity of 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 all districts of 28 States & 2 Union Territories viz. Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. In addition, Government of India also provides flexibility to the states for state specific needs/priorities under Rashtirya Krishi VikasYojana (RKVY). The states can promote Millets (Shree Anna) under RKVY with approval of State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) headed by Chief Secretary of the State.**

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