

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. 462**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2022

**PRODUCTION OF FOOD ITEMS**

+\*462. SHRIMATI KESHARI DEVI PATEL:

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

- (a) whether the Government has developed any mechanism to provide information to the farmers regarding nutritional content and quality production of the food/food items;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the preventive steps being taken for production of non-nutritional food/food items;
- (c) whether the quality of the food/food items is being affected and the soil of the farms is getting damaged due to excessive use of pesticides and chemicals/fertilizers and the soil is on the verge of getting barren as the farmers do not have proper information in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details of the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 462 DUE FOR REPLY ON 05.04.2022 REGARDING "PRODUCTION OF FOOD ITEMS"**

(a) & (b): Agriculture is a state subject. However, the Government of India along with the state governments provides information to the farmers through the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), trainings, demonstrations and also awareness programmes through mass communication media regarding nutritional content of food items. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed 79 biofortified varieties of various crops namely rice (8), wheat (28), maize (14), millets (13), lentil (2), groundnut (2), linseed (1), mustard (6) and soybean (5) which are nutritionally rich. Besides, 8 biofortified varieties of horticulture crops namely cauliflower (1), potato (2), sweet potato (2), greater yam (2) and pomegranate (1) are being popularized among the farmers through trainings, demonstrations etc., involving various mass communication media. These cultivars have been improved for essential nutrients viz., iron, zinc, calcium, protein, vitamin-C, provitamin- A, oleic acid etc.

In order to promote nutritional security, ICAR has launched two special programmes, viz Nutri- sensitive Agricultural Resources and Innovations (NARI) and Value Addition and Technology Incubation Centres in Agriculture (VATICA) for upscaling the bio fortified varieties through KVKs. ICAR is also implementing projects viz; 'Sustainable Approaches for Nutritional Security' and 'Nutritional Security & Health Promotion of Farm Families' under All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Women in Agriculture. Under the project, nutri-gardens were established in schools & village in which nutrition education awareness programmes were conducted.

Consequent to the initiative of the Government of India, the United Nations has declared the year 2023 as the International Year of Millets (IYOM). To create awareness for the nutritional and health benefits of millets, the Government of India has planned activities for celebrations of IYOM -2023.

The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) is implementing various crop production related Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) viz; National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) & Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). These schemes provide provision for dissemination of information & technology related to foodgrains and horticulture crops amongst the farmers. The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying is also implementing Centrally Sponsored Schemes for promotion of various food items of fisheries/aquaculture & dairying. These schemes educate farmers for production of food items.

(c) & (d): Recommendations on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health and fertility are provided to the farmers. The Government is implementing Soil Health Card Scheme to provide soil test based information on nutrient status to farmers. Financial assistance is provided under Soil Health Card (SHC) for imparting farmer's trainings and field demonstrations on balanced use of fertilizers.

Government is also focusing on creating awareness and educating the farmers about organic farming practices (including use of organic sources of plant nutrients) under the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission on Organic Value Chain Development of North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER) schemes.

In order to check the excess use of pesticides, Government promotes Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach as an ecologically desirable alternative. Thirty-Five Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMCs) across the country train farmers, extension functionaries, etc. for the training activities that include programmes on non-chemical pest management strategies and use of bio-pesticides for farmers through Farmers' Field Schools (FFSs), for master trainers, extension workers and short duration courses for pesticides dealers/NGOs/Graduates/Post-graduates/Private Entrepreneurs and progressive farmers. Registered pesticides are periodically reviewed from time to time with regard to their safety and efficacy in consultation with experts on receipt of new studies/reports/references/information.