

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3215
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19TH MARCH, 2025

INCLUSION OF MILLETS IN PDS

3215. DR. M P ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any plans to expand the inclusion of millets in the Public Distribution System (PDS) to promote nutritional security; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)

(a) & (b): Under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), foodgrains are being provided to States/UTs for distribution to around 80 crore beneficiaries through Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), free of cost from 1st January 2023. The term 'foodgrains' is defined as rice, wheat & 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 formulate food or nutrition based plans or schemes providing for benefits higher than the benefits provided under PMGKAY.

Coarse grains/ Millets are also allocated under PDS in lieu of equal quantity of wheat/rice (as requested by the 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.

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 prior approval of Government of India, in consultation with FCI. The whole quantity is distributed under Targeted Public Distribution Scheme (TPDS)/ OWS (Other Welfare Schemes) in the State/UT.

Initiatives by the Department to increase Millets Procurement:

- (i) Revision in Guidelines: Distribution period/ Shelf life of millets was increased from earlier 3 months to 6-10 months, thus enhancing higher level of procurement.
- (ii) Provision of inter-state transportation of surplus millets through FCI had also been incorporated.
- (iii) Increase in administrative charges on acquisition stage from 1% to 2% of MSP, to incentivize procurement of millets.
- (iv) Inclusion of minor millets in TPDS/OWS: Government has recently expanded scope of procurement of millets by States/UTs by including minor millets. Foxtail Millet (Kangani/Kakun), Proso Millet (Cheena), Kodo Millet (Kodo), Little Millet (Kutki), Black-wheat (Kuttu) and Ameranthus (Chaulai) under MSP scheme on the MSP of Ragi for next three years (from 2023).
