

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4213
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26TH MARCH, 2025

PROMOTING CLIMATE-RESILIENT CROPS UNDER PDS

4213. SHRI E T MOHAMMED BASHEER:

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

- (a) the manner in which the Government is preparing the food distribution system to handle climate impacts like droughts or floods; and
- (b) the initiatives taken by the Government to promote climate-resilient crops under PDS?

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

(a) and (b): National Agricultural Research System (NARS) including Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Institutes and State/Central Agricultural Universities (CAU/SAU) under the aegis of ICAR during 2014-2024, has developed 2900 location specific improved field crop varieties/ hybrids including cereals, oilseeds, pulses, fibre crops, forage crops, sugarcane, and other crops. Out of these 2900 varieties, 2661 varieties are tolerant to one or more biotic and/or abiotic stresses. Of these, 537 varieties have been developed specially for extreme climate using the precision phenotyping tools.

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Millets are resilient and climate-adaptable in both hot and drought environments. Millets are a good way to increase agricultural and dietary diversity. States/UTs have been requested to procure and distribute millets under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)/Other Welfare Schemes(OWS).In addition to Wheat and Rice, Millets are also part of PDS. The allocation of approved quantity of millets for distribution under PDS is made by Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) in lieu of equal quantity of wheat/rice. The millets are being given free of cost under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) from 1st January 2023 onwards. DFPD and field offices of Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) have organized millets awareness programme/competition/ seminars etc. An advisory has been issued to all the States/UTs to procure millets and distribute to NFSA beneficiaries as per local consumption preferences and as per guidelines issued by the Central Government from time to time.

Further, DFPD allocates additional food grains (over and above regular allocation) to States/UTs on account of Natural Calamities, Law & Order Situations and Festivals on the basis of requests made by States/UTs in accordance with the extant guidelines.
