

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5141
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2ND APRIL, 2025

SUPPLY OF MILLETS UNDER PDS

5141. THIRU D M KATHIR ANAND:

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

- (a) whether the Government plans to procure and supply the nutritious Millets under the Public Distribution System throughout the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the amount spent during the last three years for the procurement and supply of Millets by the Government;
- (c) the mechanisms in place to monitor and evaluate the scheme's effectiveness in reducing malnutrition, anaemia and diabetes among people;
- (d) whether any other alternate foodgrains have been considered for addressing malnutrition and anaemia, especially promoting diverse, locally-available nutritious foods in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a): Procurement of millets is regulated by guidelines for allocation, distribution, and disposal of coarse grains (Jowar, Bajra, Maize & Ragi etc.) and 6 minor millets procured by the States/FCI. Under these guidelines, States are allowed to procure these commodities in Decentralized Procurement mode from farmers at Minimum Support Price (MSP) for distribution under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)/Other Welfare Schemes (OWS).

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(b): Food subsidy released for procurement and supply of millets during last 3 years and current year:

Year	Food subsidy released (Rupees in crores)
2021-22	1682.12
2022-23	1724.94
2023-24	1198.77
2024-25 (as on 24.03.2025)	1629.40

(c): This Department engaged Monitoring Institutions (MIs) to undertake concurrent evaluation of the implementation of National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) in different States/UTs for Phase-I (2018-20) and Phase-II(2020-23).

(d) & (e): To combat anaemia and other micronutrient deficiencies, the Government of India is supplying fortified rice through the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and in Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) in all States and Union Territories (UTs). The initiative aims to provide fortified rice enriched with essential micronutrients such as iron, folic acid, and vitamin B12, to tackle micronutrient deficiencies, particularly anaemia.

The initiative was scaled up in a phased manner, and by March 2024, all Custom-milled rice has been replaced with fortified rice in every scheme of the Government. In October 2024, the Cabinet approved the continuation of this initiative as Central Sector Initiative (fully funded by the Government) up to December 2028.
