

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 526
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23RD JULY, 2025

NUTRITION-RICH FOOD PROCUREMENT

526. SMT. ROOPKUMARI CHOUDHARY:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken steps to include nutrition-rich food items such as pulses, millets and other protein and fibre-rich foods in the Public Distribution System (PDS) and allied food security schemes;
- (b) the quantity of such nutrition-rich food procured and distributed in the State of Chhattisgarh during the last five years, Scheme and year-wise;
- (c) whether the Government is facing challenges in the procurement, storage, or delivery of such items, i.e., perishable or high-cost protein sources like eggs, milk and pulses in Chhattisgarh especially in tribal or remote areas; and
- (d) the measures taken by the Government to improve the availability and accessibility of nutrition-rich food items for beneficiaries in the said State, in line with updated nutritional and dietary standards?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)

(a): 'Millets', which are commonly known as Nutri-Cereals, are already a part of Public Distribution System (PDS). Millets are allocated in terms of National Food Security Act, 2013. From 1st January 2024, the aforesaid allocation is being made free of cost under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY).

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As per existing policy of Government of India, the procurement of coarse grains 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).

To improve the level of nutrition, an advisory has been issued to all the States/UTs to procure millets and distribute them to beneficiaries as per local consumption preferences and as per guidelines issued by the Central Government from time to time. However, if any deficit State places demand of millets, the same is to be made available from surplus procuring States to the deficit States.

All State Governments are being pursued by the Govt. of India to take necessary steps to increase the procurement of millets in the States through State govt. agencies, like wheat and paddy.

In order to promote the procurement and distribution of millets and to obviate the difficulties faced by the States, the Govt. of India has issued revised guidelines in 2021-22. The salient features of which are as under: –

- (i) In order to increase the procurement and distribution of millets under NFSA/ OWS, distribution period/ shelf life of millets has been enhanced up to 9 months for Jowar/Bajra and 10 months for Ragi from existing 3 months.
- (ii) Provision for inter-state transportation of millets from surplus procuring States to deficit States that are willing to distribute millets under NFSA/ OWS has been incorporated.
- (iii) A provision for advance subsidy, as being given in case of procurement and distribution of wheat/rice, has been added in the guidelines.

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(iv) Apart from three major millets procured under Central Pool i.e. Jowar, Bajra and Ragi, Govt. of India has also allowed the procurement of following minor/ pseudo millets on the MSP of Ragi from 2023:

Minor Millets- Foxtail Millet (Kangani/ Kakun), Proso Millet (Cheena), Kodo Millet (Kodo), little millet (Kutki) Pseudo Millets- (Buck-wheat (kuttu) and Ameranthus(Chaulai)

(v) Govt. of India, on the recommendations of Commission of Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), has also increased the MSP for millets year on year to promote their public procurement.

As per the Government of India decision, pulses procurement has been carried out by FCI and other agencies (NAFED, NCCF, etc.) under Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) for creation of buffer stock of pulses through domestic procurement and to provide remunerative price to farmers during KMS 2015-16, RMS 2016-17 & KMS 2016-17. Subsequently, the pulses procurement operation was carried out under Price Support Scheme (PSS) from KMS 2017-18 onwards.

(b): No procurement of Millets has been done by the State Government of Chhattisgarh during the last five years.

As per the State Govt. of Chhattisgarh, only Gram is distributed through PDS under category of pulses in the State. Gram is distributed only in Modified Area Development Approach (MADA) and Scheduled Areas of the state to Priority Household and Antyodaya cardholders. Entitlement of Gram is 02 Kg per ration card @ Rs.5 per Kg per month. Gram is procured by the Chhattisgarh State Civil Supplies Corporation. The quantity of procurement and distribution of Gram in the State of Chhattisgarh in the last five years is mentioned below in year-wise manner:

(in MT)

S.No	Year	Procurement	Distribution
1	2020-21	52201.16	43989.77
2	2021-22	65587.96	61865.91
3	2022-23	49594.91	62350.84
4	2023-24	72364.39	64723.60
5	2024-25	70188.31	66677.07

(c): Under NFSA, only foodgrains i.e Rice, Wheat and Coarse grains are distributed to eligible beneficiaries.

(d): In order to promote nutri-cereals, Govt. of India promotes procurement and distribution of Millets - Jowar, Bajra and Ragi in PMGKAY/ Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)/ Wheat Based Nutrition Programme (WBNP) and PM-POSHAN/ Mid-Day Meal (MDM) apart from distribution under PDS.

Further, vide Govt. of India's guidelines dated 09.08.2023, Minor Millets - Foxtail Millet (Kangani/ Kakun), Proso Millet (Cheena), Kodo Millet (Kodo), little millet (Kutki) and Pseudo Millets- (Buck-wheat (kuttu) and Ameranthus (Chaulai) have also been included in the procurement and consumption through distribution under the TPDS/ ICDS/ MDM.

With an aim to provide vulnerable populations with enhanced nutrition, Govt. of India now procures and distributes Fortified Rice enriched with iron, folic acid and vitamin B12 under its different schemes i.e. PMGKAY and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS).
