

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:735
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2012
MILLETS UNDER MDMS
Sivasami Shri C.;Venugopal Shri P.

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

(a) whether the Union Government has asked the State Governments to include millets in the Mid Day Meal scheme (MDMs) to increase the demand for the cereal and thereby enhance farm income; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b): Mid Day Meal scheme (MDMs) is implemented by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy in the country. National Steering- cum-Monitoring Committee (NSMC), an apex body of MDMs advises the Central Government on policy issues for implementation of Mid Day Meal Scheme. NSMC approved the inclusion of millets in the MDMs in its meeting held on 1st August, 2011, which the Ministry of Human Resource Development has agreed to.

All the States/UTs were informed to estimate the requirement of coarse grains including millets and submit to Ministry of HRD to forward it to the Department of Food and Public Distribution for allotment. None of the State Government initially submitted their demand for the millets during 2012-13.

A meeting was also convened by the Ministry of Agriculture with Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra to facilitate inclusion of millets under MDMs on pilot basis and the requirement accordingly has been forwarded to Ministry of Human Resource Development.