

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2003
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17TH MARCH, 2023

ADDRESSING MALNUTRITION THROUGH PDS

2003 SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN:

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

- (a) the types of food and non-food items offered through Public Distribution Scheme (PDS);
- (b) whether the Ministry plans to expand the basket of items offered through PDS, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Ministry has plans to improve the variety and quality of food items offered under PDS with the objective of achieving nutrition security; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a): The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is now governed as per provisions of the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA). Under the Act, the term "foodgrains" is defined as rice, wheat or 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.

(b): No proposal to include more commodities under the NFSA is under consideration of the Government.

(c) & (d): Only good quality foodgrains free from insect infestation and conforming to food safety standards are issued through the TPDS under the NFSA as well as for other welfare schemes. In order to improve the level of nutrition among the beneficiaries covered under the NFSA, all the States/UTs have been advised 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, in order to achieve uniform nutritional impact among the targeted population, the Government of India has approved the supply of fortified rice through the Food Corporation of India and State Agencies in the entire TPDS and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) including Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and PM POSHAN covering all the States and Union Territories in a phased manner.
