

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1449

TO BE ANSWERED ON 12th DECEMBER, 2023

STARTUP FOR MILLETS

1449. SHRI S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government is aware that we need startups to promote a localized but diversified consumption of millets across the country; and
- (b) if so, the details of the steps that are proposed to be taken by the Government to fund startups to promote millet consumption

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI ARJUN MUNDA)

(a) The Government of India is committed to promote Agri-startups in the country. Millet-based startups are contributing to the diversification of the food industry due to their nutritional value and resilience in diverse climate. Startups focusing on millet-based products are emerging as key players in the food sector. Startups are leveraging nutritional benefits of millets to create a diverse range of millet based products such as millet-based snacks, cereals, beverages, millet flour, etc for diversified consumption of millets across the country. The startups also help local farmers by promoting the cultivation of millets.

(b) Governments of India provides financial and technical support to promote agri-startups in agriculture and allied sectors including millet based start-ups. Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing "Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Development" programme under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana

(RKVY) from 2018-19 with an objective to promote innovation and agri-entrepreneurship by providing financial and technical support for nurturing startups ecosystem in the country. So far, 5 Knowledge Partners (KPs) and 24 RKVY Agribusiness Incubators (R-ABIs) have been appointed for training & incubation of startups and implementation of this programme.

Under the programme, the financial support upto Rs. 5.00 lakh is provided at the idea/pre seed stage and upto Rs. 25 lakh at the seed stage to entrepreneurs/ startups in the field of agriculture & allied sector to launch their products, services, business platforms, etc into the market and facilitate them to scale up their products and operations.

ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), Hyderabad is one of the RKVY-Agribusiness Incubator (RABI) appointed under the Innovation and Agri-entrepreneurship programme of RKVY, which is a domain specific startup incubator primarily working in supporting the millet value chain. It has a dedicated Center of Excellence (CoE) for R&D in Millets, trainings and mentoring programs for entrepreneurs and startups to help them scale up their ventures. So far, 135 millet based startups have been supported with grant-in-aid of Rs. 10.50 crore by IIMR, Hyderabad (R-ABI).
