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Title: Need to introduce 'Quinoa' cultivation in India in order to launch protein revolution.

SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ: Hon. Chairman, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards Quinoa to be introduced in India to launch a protein revolution.

Quinoa is considered as a super food. Protein content in it is very high. Nutritional evaluations of Quinoa indicate that it is a source of complete protein. Furthermore, it is a good source of dietary fiber; phosphorous; it is high in magnesium; and iron. Quinoa is also a source of calcium. It is gluten-free, and is considered easy to digest. Quinoa is being considered a possible crop in NASA's Controlled Ecological Life Support System for long-duration human-occupied spaceflights. It has 1.5 times more calcium than wheat. This mineral is responsible for various bones and dental structure functions, and also plays a role in regulating the neuromuscular transmission of chemical and electric stimuli, cell secretion and blood coagulation. It can be promoted in the mid-day meal scheme for children, and healthy living among citizens.

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that year 2013 has been declared by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of United Nations as the year of Quinoa. FOA has named Mrs. Nadine Heredia, first Lady of Peru, as the Brand Ambassador.

Hon. Chairman, Sir, I would like to request the Government that they should frame a policy to introduce Quinoa in India to launch a protein revolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.