

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2628  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 11<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2023**

**DISTRIBUTION OF FORTIFIED RICE UNDER PDS**

2628 SHRI S. KALYANASUNDARAM:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the stiff opposition to Fortified Rice Kernels (FRK) being distributed through Public Distribution System (PDS) and the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has any plan to scrap the distribution of FRK through PDS, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the amount of funds allocated, disbursed and utilised for FRK, the details thereof, State wise?

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

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(a): In a formative study conducted by Indian Council of Medical Research – National Institute of Nutrition (ICMR-NIN) in May 2023 to understand the rollout and utilization of fortified rice supplied through the Public Distribution System (PDS), there was no reported resistance to fortified rice in the study sites across six states.

In order to dispel myths and misconceptions, on the intervention of Government of India, State Governments in association with Food Corporation of India (FCI) and other stakeholders such as Field Experts including Medical Professionals, members of Media, prominent personalities, local leaders etc. have undertaken Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns to create awareness on the benefits of fortified rice and its positive impact on nutritional security in the tribal areas of the country.

(b): Inter-ministerial consultations with various stakeholders such as NITI Aayog, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), line Ministries (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education) and other relevant organizations as well as the States/UTs were held during approval process of the rice fortification initiative.

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On the basis of studies available in India and abroad; and also the recommendation of FSSAI for mandatory rice fortification in India, the Government of India has undertaken scaling up of the supply of fortified rice in the country in a phased manner considering it as a Central Sector (100% central funding) initiative as part of food subsidy till 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Besides, there is a provision of evaluation study of the Rice Fortification initiative on concurrent basis by involving all the concerned stakeholders such as Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India in association with other designated stakeholders under the overall guidance and monitoring of NITI Aayog.

(c): The annual planned cost of complete implementation of Rice Fortification Initiative was envisaged as Rs. 2679.47 crore to be part of food subsidy bill.

Disbursement of funds is a continuous process, while settlement of bills claimed by the States/UTs are made as per the norms. As rice fortification and other related cost is part of food subsidy now, no separate funds are allocated/ disbursed for fortified rice. However, food subsidy released by the Government towards payment to Decentralized Procurement (DCP) States during the financial year 2022-23 and 2023-24 (up to 31.07.2023) are indicated in the **Annexure.**

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## ANNEXURE

## ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2628 FOR ANSWER ON 11.08.2023 IN THE RAJYA SABHA

(Amount in Crore)

S. No.	Name of the State	2022-23	2023-24 (As on 31.07.23)
1	Andhra Pradesh	6635.97	2121.34
2	Bihar	10966.10	697.80
3	Chhattisgarh	7574.81	62.04
4	Gujarat	311.54	-
5	Karnataka	2191.75	-
6	Kerala	1544.89	-
7	Madhya Pradesh	9471.50	5147.32
8	Maharashtra	2725.75	1004.60
9	Odisha	7600.05	6205.02
10	Punjab	1202.49	304.98
11	Tamil Nadu	8685.95	-
12	Telangana	5242.76	2311.68
13	Uttarakhand	1212.25	-
14	West Bengal	6580.11	-
15	Jharkhand	-	-
16	Tripura	148.67	59.78
17	DBT*	187.90	104.85
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>72282.50</b>	<b>18019.41</b>

\* Under DBT Scheme, w.e.f. 2015-16, subsidy is released to UTs of Chandigarh, Puducherry, Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

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