

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RESEARCH**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1070
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12TH DECEMBER, 2023**

EFFECTIVENESS/SIDE EFFECTS OF FORTIFIED-RICE ON HUMAN HEALTH

1070. SHRI ANEEL PRASAD HEGDE:

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India's premier medical research body ICMR has expressed serious doubts about effectiveness of fortified-rice, if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;
- (b) whether consultations were done with a wide range of experts on the effect of fortified-rice on human health before pushing it further, after the DG ICMR stressed the need to do so, and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the findings of a member of NITI Aayog's National Technical Board on Nutrition, regarding an increase in serum levels linked to diabetes in children fed with iron-fortified rice was true, if so, the action taken by Government to mitigate the fear?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL)**

(a) to (c): As informed by Department of Food and Public Distribution, consultations were done with all States/UTs and all the line Ministries/Departments namely Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises, Food Corporation of India (FCI), Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, NITI Aayog and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) had informed that Food fortification is one of the strategies, under Anaemia Mukt Bharat (AMB) programme which has been taken up under the National Health Mission (NHM), to address the iron deficiency anaemia. Also, a white paper titled 'Efficacy and safety of iron fortified rice in India' has been developed by ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad.

NITI Aayog has also informed that the matter related to Rice Fortification has been discussed in the meetings of National Technical Board on Nutrition. Empirical evidence of an increase in serum levels linked to diabetes in children fed with iron-fortified rice was not found.
