

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.74  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 2<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024**

**DISTRIBUTION OF FORTIFIED RICE UNDER PDS**

74 SHRI SANDEEP KUMAR PATHAK:

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

- (a) the quantity and rate of fortified rice purchased and mixed with general rice distributed through the Public Distribution System (PDS) in the country in the last five years along with the name of the supplier companies, State/UT-wise, year-wise;
- (b) the name and details of the Expert Committee/Group and the Indian/global agency which recommended fortified rice for combating malnutrition;
- (c) whether Government conduct a pilot project on the same, if so, the details thereof indicating the location, sample size, the agency/expert group, findings and recommendations; and
- (d) the list of countries where fortified rice is used to counter malnutrition?

**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): Rice Fortification is the process of adding Fortified Rice Kernels (FRK) containing Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)'s prescribed micronutrients (Iron, Folic Acid, Vitamin B12) to normal rice/Custom Milled Rice (CMR) in a ratio of 1:100 (Mixing 1 Kg of FRK with 100 Kg CMR). Government of India has approved the incremental cost of rice fortification with the cap of Rs.0.73 per kg (or actual whichever is less). The cost of rice fortification is to be borne 100% as part of food subsidy by Govt. of India till 30th June, 2024. The responsibility of purchase of FRK rests with respective States and Union Territories as per prescribed specifications. 325.63 LMT of fortified rice has been distributed through the PDS since 2019-20 upto 31.12.2023.

(b): According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), fortification of rice with iron is recommended as a public health strategy to improve the iron status of populations, in settings where rice is a staple food.

A detailed and protracted consultative process was adopted by involving relevant multi-stakeholder including NITI Aayog, Ministry of Women and Child Development and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on rice fortification. The Task Force, constituted for recommending actions/legislation on food fortification, in its meeting held in May, 2016 recommended inter-alia mandatory fortification of rice with iron and folic acid supplied through Food Corporation of India (FCI) for the Government programme in a phased manner. Besides, various studies on rice fortification available in public domain were also considered.

(c): Government of India approved Centrally Sponsored Pilot Scheme on “Fortification of Rice and its Distribution under Public Distribution System” for the period from 2019-20 to 2021-22. Out of 15 States consented for the implementation of Pilot Scheme in their identified districts, eleven (11) States namely Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand have reported distribution of fortified rice in their identified districts. Approximately 4.30 Lakh Metric Ton (LMT) of fortified rice has been distributed through Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) under the Pilot Scheme during 2019-20 to 2021-22.

As per the scaling up plan for countrywide distribution of fortified rice across all Government Scheme by 2024, NITI Aayog has been authorized as nodal for conducting independent evaluation studies (Baseline/Midline/Endline) on rice fortification on concurrent basis in association with ICMR-NIN and other agencies.

(d): The countries include United States of America, Canada, Nicaragua, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Venezuela, etc.

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