

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2745
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25TH MARCH, 2025

IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF FORTIFIED FOOD GRAINS ON MICRONUTRIENT DEFICIENCIES UNDER PDS

2745 **SHRI SANJEEV ARORA:**

Will the Minister of *Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution* be pleased to state:

- (a) the Ministry's plan for a comprehensive impact assessment of fortified food grains under the PDS in addressing micronutrient deficiencies, especially in regions with high malnutrition such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Jharkhand;
- (b) whether baseline studies or surveys have been conducted to track the nutritional status of PDS beneficiaries before and after the introduction of fortified grains, and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details on the reduction of anaemia and other micronutrient-related health issues in children and adults since the introduction of fortified wheat and rice?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)

(a) to (c): NITI Aayog has constituted a Core Committee to monitor the impact evaluation of the Rice Fortification Initiative. NITI Aayog and Indian Council of Medical Research - National Institute of Nutrition (ICMR-NIN) have taken up study in six districts in six different states (Telangana, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Assam) of the country to evaluate the impacts of iron fortified rice supplied through the Public Distribution Systems in India. The study includes all age groups, employs a time-series, repeat cross-sectional design and covers approximately 10,000 individuals.

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The objectives of the concurrent evaluation of Rice Fortification is to assess the impact of fortified rice supplied through the PDS and other welfare schemes in reducing iron-deficiency anaemia among different age groups and to assess the challenges related to markers of iron overload (adverse effects) among study participants following the introduction of fortified rice.

The study consists of baseline, midline and endline assessment at an interval of one year. Currently, the baseline survey data collection has been completed in all states, and data collection for the subsequent rounds will progress as per the study protocol.

Additionally, the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, with the support from the United Nations World Food Programme, conducted an efficacy and effectiveness study on rice fortification in Chandauli district. The study showed a significant 7.5 % point reduction in anemia prevalence among the children (6-59 months) after the introduction of rice fortification, with rates decreasing from 65.7% (baseline: National Family Health Survey-5, Jan. 2021) to 58.2% (endline: July-August 2023).
