

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3408
TO BE ANSWERED ON 1ST APRIL, 2025

SUPPLY OF FORTIFIED RICE

3408 **SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI:**

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

- (a) whether Government provides fortified rice under a number of schemes as part of a complementary strategy to combat micronutrient deficiencies, and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has set up a working group/committee to assess the safety of iron-fortified rice for all individuals, if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (c) whether ecosystem for rice fortification has expanded, and if so, the details thereof?

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

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- (a): Yes, Sir. The Government is supplying fortified rice under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) and Other Welfare Schemes as a complementary strategy to combat micronutrient deficiencies, particularly anaemia.
 - (b): Yes, Sir. 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.

(c): Yes, Sir. The phase-wise implementation of the rice fortification initiative has ensured proportionate expansion of the ecosystem required for manufacturing, blending, and ensuring the quality of fortified rice in the country. Currently, there are 925 Fortified Rice Kernel (FRK) manufacturers, 232 premix manufacturers, and around 21,000 rice mills equipped with blending equipment. The testing infrastructure has considerably increased in the country, with 57 NABL-accredited labs for fortified rice testing, 33 NABL-accredited labs for fortified rice kernel testing, and 15 NABL-accredited labs for vitamin-mineral premix testing.
