

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1816
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5TH AUGUST, 2025

INITIATIVES REGARDING RICE FORTIFICATION

1816 DR. K. LAXMAN:

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

- (a): the manner in which the initiative to supply fortified rice under Government schemes has addressed nutritional deficiencies among the targeted population;
- (b): the implementation timeline and coverage of fortified rice across ICDS, PM POSHAN, and TPDS under the three-phase rollout;
- (c): the manner in which the inclusion of micronutrients like iron, folic acid, and vitamin B12 in fortified rice adheres to FSSAI standards;
- (d): the key achievements of the fortified rice initiative; and
- (e): the manner in which Government plans to sustain the supply of fortified rice under PMGKAY and other welfare schemes until December 2028?

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

(a): To achieve uniform nutritional impact of fortified rice among the targeted population, the Government of India is supplying fortified rice through the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and in Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) in all States/UTs. The initiative aims to provide fortified rice enriched with essential micronutrients such as iron, folic acid, and vitamin B12 to tackle micronutrient deficiencies, particularly anemia.

(b): The implementation timeline and coverage of fortified rice across Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM-POSHAN), and TPDS under the three-phase rollout is as follows:

Phase I (2021-22): ICDS and PM-POSHAN with nearly 17.51 LMT of fortified rice lifted.

Phase II (2022-23): Phase I plus TPDS and OWS in 291 aspirational and high-burden districts, with nearly 136 LMT of fortified rice lifted.

Phase III (2023-24): Phase II plus the remaining districts of the country, with nearly 322 LMT of fortified rice lifted/distributed.

(c): FSSAI has formulated the Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Food) Regulation, 2018. It specifies the level of fortificants that should be present in the fortified rice. The quality assurance Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for fortified rice issued by the Government ensures that the fortified rice supplied adheres to FSSAI's standards.

(d): Custom-milled rice has been replaced with fortified rice in every scheme of the Government and 100% coverage of distribution of fortified rice has been achieved by March 2024. With the implementation of the rice fortification initiative in a phased manner, the ecosystem required for manufacturing, blending, and ensuring the quality of fortified rice has also developed proportionately in the country.

(e): The Government of India has approved the continuation of the universal supply of fortified rice under all central government schemes in its present form until December 2028. This initiative will continue as a central sector initiative with 100% funding by the Government of India as part of PMGKAY (Food Subsidy), with financial implication of ₹17082 crores.
