

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2927
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19TH AUGUST, 2025

RICE FORTIFICATION INITIATIVE

2927 **SHRI BRIJ LAL:**
SMT. KIRAN CHOUDHRY:

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

- (a) the objectives of the Rice fortification initiative;
- (b) why rice was selected for fortification;
- (c) the milestones achieved so far;
- (d) whether Government has decided to continue the initiative;
- (e) the duration and budget outlay; and
- (f) the cost-sharing model between the Centre and States?

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

(a): The Rice Fortification Initiative aims to provide fortified rice enriched with essential micronutrients such as iron, folic acid, and vitamin B12 to tackle micronutrient deficiencies, particularly anemia. In order 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), Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) Scheme, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme and in Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) in all States and Union Territories (UTs).

(b): Rice is the ideal vehicle for supplying micronutrients in the Indian Context as 65% of India's population consumes rice as a staple food, especially by economically vulnerable groups, and is a cost-effective and complementary strategy to increase the vitamin and mineral content of diets. Rice has the highest offtake in government food safety net programs, providing a unique opportunity to reach approximately 80 crore people, including women and children, efficiently.

(c): 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.

(d) to (f): 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.
