

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2762
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17TH MARCH, 2026

PROCUREMENT OF FORTIFIED RICE AND CANADIAN LENTIL AND PEAS

2762 SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN:

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

- (a): whether Government is procuring fortified rice and Canadian lentil and peas for public distribution to different types of ration card holders in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b): the quantity and rate in INR per kg of fortified Rice purchased during the last five years, State/UT-wise;
- (c): the rationale behind making fortified Rice mandatory in public distribution schemes despite concerns raised by health experts and activists; and
- (d): whether potential harmful effect from intake of Iron-fortified Rice include Sickle Cell Anaemia, Thalassaemia and Neural disorders, 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)

(a): The Government procures fortified rice, wheat and coarse grains for distribution under Public Distribution System (PDS).

(b): The purchase cost of fortified Rice includes the economic cost of rice and the cost of fortification of rice. As per the Provisional Cost Sheet (PCS), the economic cost of Custom Milled Rice (CMR) allowed, State-wise for the last five years is at Annexure-I. In addition, there is cost of fortification of rice which should not be more than Rs. 0.73 per kilogram.

The quantity of fortified rice procured for the central pool during the last five years and the current marketing season, state-wise is at **Annexure-II**.

(c): Fortification is a globally recognized practice and India follows guidelines aligned with the World Health Organization (WHO). According to WHO's 2018 recommendations, rice fortification with iron is recommended in countries where rice is a staple food. In India, with 65% of its population consuming rice daily, iron-fortified rice is particularly relevant and was incorporated as a complementary strategy to other efforts in Anaemia Mukht Bharat Initiative.

(d): As per Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), there is no clear evidence to suggest that consumption of iron-fortified rice causes sickle cell disease, thalassemia or neural disorders. Sickle cell disease and thalassemia are inherited genetic blood disorders and are not caused by dietary intake of iron or iron-fortified foods. Some concerns have been raised regarding iron intake among individuals with such haemoglobinopathies, where iron metabolism may be altered. However, available scientific evidence does not indicate adverse health outcomes associated with the consumption of iron-fortified foods among individuals with these conditions. Iron overload observed in patients with sickle cell disease and thalassemia is primarily due to repeated blood transfusions rather than intake of fortified rice.

Economic Cost of Custom Milled Rice for the last five years, State-wise

State	KMS 2021-22	KMS 2022-23	KMS 2023-24	KMS 2024-25	KMS 2025-26
A.P	35.05	35.74	38.62	38.62	42.69
Bihar	35.19	36.26	38.50	38.50	42.29
Chhattisgarh	35.80	36.56	36.77	36.77	42.97
Gujarat	33.15	34.45	36.62	36.62	41.01
Haryana	33.02	34.70	36.65	36.65	40.42
Maharashtra	34.52	35.02	36.91	36.91	41.12
MP	34.64	33.91	38.59	38.59	42.20
Odisha	35.46	36.51	38.88	38.88	42.63
Punjab	34.14	35.10	36.81	36.81	40.21
Tamil Nadu	33.46	35.94	38.51	40.86	42.61
Telangana	35.15	35.56	37.42	37.42	42.45
Uttar Pradesh	32.37	34.02	36.74	36.74	39.55
Uttarakhand	35.44	36.09	37.57	40.75	42.37
West Bengal	34.77	35.01	38.00	38.00	41.43

The aforesaid economic cost is exclusive of cost of fortification of rice.

Statement showing Fortified Rice Received for the last 5 years.

Fig. in LMT, As on
12.03.2026

STATE/U.T.	KMS 2020-21	KMS 2021-22	KMS 2022- 23	KMS 2023-24	KMS 2024-25*	KMS 2025- 26*
ANDHRA PRADESH		17.52	25.73	28.31	35.79	7.28
TELANGANA	7.55	40.40	60.25	57.51	55.81	8.74
ASSAM			4.00	2.66	5.74	0.57
BIHAR			28.45	20.89	26.70	7.42
CHANDIGARH			0.10	0.05	0.18	-
CHHATTISGARH	1.02	3.81	14.24	20.16	20.12	0.47
GUJARAT			1.21	0.55	0.23	-
HARYANA			39.90	39.55	35.97	13.77
HIMACHAL PR.			0.07	0.14	0.25	0.14
JHARKHAND			1.10	0.49	1.41	0.33
J&K			0.23	0.02	0.02	0.03
KARNATAKA			0.12	0.00	0.003	0.00
KERALA			4.79	2.48	2.85	0.00
MADHYA PR.		3.32	29.85	27.53	27.68	0.70
MAHARASHTRA			11.93	7.38	8.99	0.00
ODISHA	0.33	8.54	21.88	22.58	21.66	0.00
PUDUCHERRY			0.00	0.00	0.001	0.00
PUNJAB	49.64	94.56	121.42	102.05	29.47	41.80
NEF (Tripura)			0.31	0.22	0.25	0.00
TAMILNADU			10.33	23.21	31.78	6.42
UTTAR PR.		5.52	43.65	36.21	39.01	30.23
UTTRAKHAND			5.94	4.83	4.55	0.84
WEST BENGAL			21.80	16.92	20.18	5.79
RAJASTHAN			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	58.55	173.66	447.30	413.73	368.64	124.54

*KMS 2024-25 & KMS 2025-26 are under progress.