

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3572
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24TH MARCH, 2026

RICE FORTIFICATION AND NUTRITIONAL SECURITY

3572 **DR. VIKRAMJIT SINGH SAHNEY:**

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

- (a): the objectives and coverage of the Rice fortification programme under the Public Distribution System and welfare schemes;
- (b): whether fortified rice containing iron, folic acid and vitamin B12 is being distributed through TPDS, ICDS and PM POSHAN schemes;
- (c): the quantity of fortified rice distributed across States during the last three years;
- (d): whether any quality issues have been reported regarding fortified rice supplied in Punjab; and
- (e): the steps taken by Government to ensure quality standards and testing of fortified rice kernels?

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

(a) and (b): The Rice Fortification Programme 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 approved the supply of 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). Fortified rice is supplied in all districts under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) except wheat consuming states i.e. Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan and 100% Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Union Territories (UTs) i.e. Chandigarh and Puducherry.

(c): The approximate quantity of fortified rice distributed/ lifted under Public Distribution System (PDS) across States during the last three years is as under:

Financial Year	Quantity (in Lakh Metric Tons)
2022-23	106.00
2023-24	296.00
2024-25	323.57

(d): No quality issues have been reported for fortified rice supplied in Punjab.

(e): The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has notified the standards for Rice flour and Vitamin-Mineral Premix for Preparation of Fortified Rice Kernel (FRK) under the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Amendment Regulation, 2022.

The FSSAI approved 31 laboratories for testing of micronutrients in Fortified Rice Kernels (FRK) and 17 laboratories for Vitamin-Mineral Premix for FRK.

454 officials have been notified as Food Safety Officers for the purpose of surveillance sampling of FRK.

Each batch of FRK is being tested at FSSAI empaneled National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accredited laboratory before its blending with conventional rice.
