

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4664
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23RD MARCH, 2018**

VITAMIN D DEFICIENCY

4664. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any Government data on the prevalence of Vitamin D deficiency in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/ UT-wise;
- (c) if not, the necessary steps taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure a data base on the prevalence of Vitamin D deficiency in various States;
- (d) whether the Government has formulated any strategy to promote voluntary food fortification after the establishment of Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Foods) Regulation 2006; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the nature of the challenges faced by the Government in implementing the same?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

- (a): No.
- (b): Does not arise.
- (c): The forthcoming round of National Family Health Survey i.e. NFHS-5 (2018-19) will collect Vitamin-D deficiency data.
- (d): In order to promote large scale food fortification, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has established a Food Fortification Resource Centre (FFRC) in collaboration with Tata Trusts and other International NGOs working in the field of nutrition to promote fortification of food in open market as well as in Government Safety net programmes. FFRC is a resource hub and engages with the Food Business Operators(FBOs) and premix suppliers regularly to help provide end to end technical support and training in collaboration with the development partners on ground. FFRC's approach is to motivate, nudge and facilitate the food industry to adopt Food Fortification as a norm and introduce fortified variants of their products.

(e): The Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Ministry of Human Resource Development have already advised the use of double fortified salt with iron and iodine, wheat flour with iron, folic acid and vitamin B-12, and edible oil with vitamin A and D under their Integrated Child Development Scheme and Mid-day Meal Scheme, respectively.

There is support from the industry where fortification is soon becoming a norm. In the oil industry, 47% of the organized market and top manufacturers have already fortified their oils. There are 28 companies who have come out with fortified products.

The major State cooperatives and private players are now fortifying their milk. 6 major dairies are now fortifying their milk and 2 private dairies have come out with fortified products. However, since there are no standards of milk powder, cow milk as of now, these dairies are fortifying limited range only as per FSSAI standards.

In Wheat flour and Rice, due to the nature of unorganized market, there are some brands which have started fortifying their products. In wheat flour, 8 companies which are major players in the organized sector, have come out with fortified products and in rice there are 2 brands which have come out in the open market.

There are at present 10 companies who have their Double Fortified Salt (DFS) in the open market.

To make fortified food popular, Pan India campaign to generate demand simultaneously incentivisation of the industry to make available adequate supply of such products are also challenges.

.....