

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.111
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14TH DECEMBER, 2022**

DISTRIBUTION OF FORTIFIED RICE IN KERALA

***111. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:**

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has directed the Kerala Government to distribute 'fortified rice' through ration shops in all districts from next year and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Chamba (Matta) variety of rice that is currently being distributed in the State is rich in nutrients requires fortification and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has implemented any measure to avoid situations of excess iron intake due to consumption of fortified rice by persons with medical conditions such as sickle cell anaemia, thalassemia etc.; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**A N S W E R
MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY, CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD &
PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND TEXTILES
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)**

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.111 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 14.12.2022 IN THE LOK SABHA

(a): The Government has approved the supply of fortified rice throughout the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) and in Other Welfare Schemes of Government of India in all States and Union Territories (UTs) including Kerala by the year 2024 in a phased manner. Further, under Phase-II of the Rice Fortification Initiative, the Aspirational District of Wayanad in Kerala has commenced distribution from August 2022.

(b): Under NFSA, the FCI supplies two categories of rice viz. 'common' and 'Grade A'. With regard to the other varieties of rice locally procured by States/UTs including Chamba (Matta) rice, the nutritional content can be ascertained by the State in consultation with the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). Besides, Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Foods) Regulation, 2018 provides standards for fortified rice, which is Rice when fortified with micronutrients. Under the Government initiative of rice fortification, these micronutrients viz. Iron, Vitamin B12 and Folic Acid are blended in the form of Fortified Rice Kernels (FRKs) in the normal rice in the ratio of 1: 100.

(c) and (d): The Government has circulated the Gazette notification titled Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Foods) First Amendment Regulations, 2021 (Annexure) issued by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to all States/UTs for strict compliance. The notification vide point no. 2 (1) states that *"Every package of food, fortified with Iron shall carry a statement –People with Thalassemia may take under medical supervision and persons with Sickle Cell Anaemia are advised not to consume iron fortified food products."* All States/UTs have been requested to bring it to the notice of all concerned and ensure strict compliance. States/UTs have also been requested to display it at the Fair Price Shops appropriately along with the posters/banners about fortified rice.

Besides, various State Governments including Government of Kerala have organized programmes to create awareness on benefits of fortified rice and its positive impact on nutritional security in the tribal areas of the country. Accordingly, workshops/seminars in 9 districts having tribal population in the States of Gujarat (Vapi), Maharashtra (Nashik and Nandurbar), Chhattisgarh (Kanker), Jharkhand (East Singhbhum), Madhya Pradesh (Shahdol, Mandla, Barwani) and Kerala (Wayanad) were conducted under the aegis of DFPD, FCI and other stakeholders such as Field Experts including Medical Professionals, members of the Media, prominent personalities, local leaders and Development Partners. Awareness campaigns all over the country are continuous efforts.

टिप्पण: मूल विनियम भारत के राजपत्र, असाधारण, भाग III, खंड 4 में अधिसूचना संख्या फा. सं. 11/03/रजि./सुदृढीकरण/2014, तारीख 2 अगस्त, 2018 द्वारा प्रकाशित किए गए थे और तत्पश्चात् निम्नलिखित अधिसूचना संख्या द्वारा संशोधित किए गए थे:

(1) फा.स. आरईजी/सुदृढीकरण संशोधन (1)/अधिसूचना/एफ.एस.ए.आई-2018, तारीख 18 दिसम्बर, 2020

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

(Food Safety and Standards Authority of India)

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 27th August, 2021

F. No. Stds/SP-18/A-1.12/N-1.—Whereas the draft of the Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Foods) Amendment Regulations, 2020, were published as required under sub-section (1) of section 92 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (34 of 2006), *vide* notification of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India number F. No. Stds/SP-18/A-1.12/N-1, dated the 10th November, 2020, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part III, Section 4, inviting objections and suggestions from the persons likely to be affected thereby before the expiry of the period of sixty days from the date on which the copies of the Official Gazette containing the said notification were made available to the public;

And whereas the copies of the said Gazette were made available to the public on the 13th November, 2020;

And whereas the objections and suggestions received from the public in respect of the said draft regulations have been considered by the Food Safety and standards Authority of India;

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by clauses (e) of sub-section (2) of section 92 of the said Act, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India hereby makes the following regulations further to amend the Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Foods) Regulations, 2018, namely:—

Regulations

1. **Short title and commencement.**—(1) These regulations may be called the Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Foods) First Amendment Regulations, 2021.

(2) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette and food business operator shall comply with all the provisions of these regulations with effect from 1st March, 2022.

2. In the Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Foods) Regulations, 2018,—

(1) for sub-regulations (4) of regulations 7, the following shall be substituted, namely:—

“(4) Every package of food, fortified with Iron shall carry a statement “*People with Thalassaemia may take under medical supervision and persons with Sickle Cell Anaemia are advised not to consume iron fortified food products.*”;

(2) in Schedule-I,—

(a) in clause 1, in table, under column (1), at serial number 1, for the entries under column (2) to (4), relating to “Iodine Content”, the following shall be substituted, namely:—

S.No.	Component	Level of nutrients	Source of Nutrients
“1.	Iodine content	15-30 part per million (on dry weight basis.	Potassium Iodate”;

- (b) in Clause 3, related to the 'Fortified Milk', after the existing table, the following shall be inserted, namely:—

“3A. Fortified Milk Powder:

(i) Milk powder, when fortified, shall be fortified with such levels of Vitamin A and D, so that the final reconstituted fortified milk shall comply with the levels of micronutrients specified in Clause 3 of Schedule-I related to 'Fortified Milk', when constituted as per the directions mentioned on the product label.

(ii) It shall only be used in the Government Funded Programs for the purpose of preparation of 'Reconstituted Fortified Milk';

(iii) In addition to the labelling provisions mentioned under Food Safety and Standards Regulations, the label of Fortified Milk Powder shall also carry the following statement:

(a) NOT RECOMMENDED FOR DIRECT CONSUMPTION;

(b) ONLY FOR USE UNDER _____ (Name of the Government Funded Programme);

(c) TO BE CONSUMED ONLY AFTER RECONSTITUTION OF THE ENTIRE CONTENT AS PER THE DIRECTIONS ON THE LABEL.

(d) PACK ONCE OPENED, TO BE CONSUMED ON THE SAME DAY.”;

- (c) for clause 6, related to 'Fortified Raw Rice', the following shall be substituted, namely:—
“6. Fortified Rice”.

ARUN SINGHAL, Chief Executive Officer

[ADVT.-III/4/Exty./222/2021-22]

Note: The principal regulations were published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part III, Section 4 *vide* notification number File No. 11/03/Reg/Fortification/2014, dated the 2nd August, 2018 and subsequently amended *vide* notification numbers. —

- (1) F. No. REG/Fortification Amendment (1)/Notification/FSSAI-2018, dated 18th December, 2020.