

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1822
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.12.2022

FOOD FORTIFICATION

1822. SHRI KHAGEN MURMU:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether large-scale food fortification (LSFF) strategies can reduce deficiencies in low-income groups; and
- (b) if so, the details of the steps taken by the Government keeping in view the fact that fortified staples have "many benefits" and it is a part of the solution to address micro nutrient inadequacies, and also that the lack of education, incorrect eating practices, poor bio availability of nutrients, and other environmental and financial constraints lead to nutrient-deprived diets ?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a). Food fortification is a complimentary strategy and is not a replacement to diet diversity. Food fortification enhances the nutritive value of available food. Studies highlight that, at times, diets consumed are not sufficient in micro nutrient content contributing to malnutrition. Food fortification has emerged as a proven, simple, scalable and cost-effective strategy to reduce prevalence of micro nutrient deficiencies among populations.

(b). Under the regulatory framework, the Standards for fortification of staples were notified in official Gazette on 2nd August 2018 by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). Directives have been issued to include fortified staples in Anganwadi Services, PM Poshan and PDS schemes. Currently fortified wheat flour, rice, milk, edible oil and double fortified salt is available in various safety net programs across the country.

Nutrition awareness strategies under Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 aim to develop sustainable health and well-being with focus on local, wholesome foods to bridge dietary gaps and address micro nutrient deficiencies. Therefore under Poshan 2.0, focus is on diet diversity, food fortification and popularizing use of millets. As per scheme guidelines of Poshan 2.0, local dietary inputs and fresh produce, fortified rice and millets have to be actively encouraged in prescription of meals for different categories of beneficiaries. To encourage diet diversity, around 4.35 lakh Poshan Vatikas have been developed at anganwadi centres.

In Financial Year 2021-22, 7.31 lakh MT of fortified rice was allocated to States. This year, till date, 9.38 lakh MT has been allocated.

Further, to ensure availability of fortified rice, a Centrally Sponsored Pilot Scheme has been launched which will provide fortified rice to all the beneficiaries of Anganwadi Services, PM Poshan and PDS by 2024 in phased manner.
