

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5354
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5TH APRIL, 2023

IMPROVING FINANCIAL VIABILITY OF FPSS

†5354. SHRI PARBATBHAI SAVABHAI PATEL:

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

- (a) whether the States/UTs need to explore additional revenue sources to improve the financial viability of the Fair Price Shops (FPSs), if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the work being done by the Government to check the malnutrition at district level across the country including Gujarat;
- (c) whether the Government is likely to achieve the target to distribute fortified rice in all Government programmes by 2023-24; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a): Government of India has undertaken various technology-based interventions in the Public Distribution System (PDS) to improve transparency in operations, prevention of leakages, and diversion of food grains. Simultaneously, it has also been the endeavour of the Government to improve the financial viability of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) by providing additional business avenues to FPS dealers and enhancing beneficiary experience through the provision of value-added services at FPS. To improve the financial viability of FPSs, Government of India has requested all State/UT Governments to take up initiatives through FPSs such as providing Common Service Centre (CSC) services, Banking services through tie-up with banks/ corporate Banking Correspondents, Banking and citizen-centric services of India Post Payment Bank (IPPB), Retail selling of small (5kg) LPG cylinders, Sale of other commodities/ general store items etc.

(b) to (d): In order to achieve uniform nutritional impact of fortified rice amongst the targeted population, 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 (OWS) of Government of India in all States and Union Territories (UTs) including all districts of Gujarat by the year 2024 in a phased manner. The complete implementation of the initiative throughout the country in a phased manner is as under:

Phase-I: Covering Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) and PM-POSHAN in all over India by March, 2022

Phase-II: Phase I above plus TPDS and OWS in all Aspirational and High Burden Districts on stunting (total 291 districts) by March 2023

Phase-III: Phase II above plus the remaining districts of the country by March, 2024.

At present, fortified rice is distributed through TPDS in 27 States/UTs namely Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Ladakh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. 14 Aspirational/High Burden Districts of Gujarat namely Narmada, Anand, Banaskantha, Valsad, Bhavnagar, Vadodara, Kheda, Kachchh, Dohad, Dangs, Surendranagar, Sabarkantha, Patan and Naysari are distributing fortified rice through TPDS under phase-II. Under Phase-II of the Initiative, as on 19.03.2023, approximately 6.17 Lakh Metric Ton (LMT) of fortified rice has been distributed through TPDS in Gujarat whereas approximately 101.64 Lakh Metric Ton (LMT) of fortified rice has been distributed through TPDS across the country.
