

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3342  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH, 2022**

**FORTIFICATION PROCESS**

**3342. SHRI MARGANI BHARAT:**

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

- (a) whether it is true that fortification with micronutrients is one of the suitable methods to combat malnutrition in the country;**
- (b) if so, the efforts made by the Government to fortify rice and wheat to provide nutritional food and also make better India's ranking in the Global Hunger Index and Global Food Security Index;**
- (c) the details of the country's capacity of fortification of rice in view of 2/3rd Indians using rice as staple diet and per capita consumption being nearly 7 kgs per month;**
- (d) whether existing rice mills have to be upgraded for fortification and, if so, the details thereof;**
- (e) whether the Ministry is considering to give some incentives to rice mills; and**
- (f) if so, the details in this regard?**

**A N S W E R  
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)**

**(a): Yes Sir.**

**(b): Government of India has implemented the Pilot project on rice fortification for a period of 3 years beginning in 2019-20. As on 15.03.2022, eleven (11) States namely Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand have distributed 4.22 Lakh Metric Ton (LMT) fortified rice. In addition, the Government of India has also made efforts to put in place a suitable ecosystem for fortified rice in the country including all relevant stakeholders like States, industries, Fortified Rice Kernel (FRK) manufacturers, research institutions and development partners. Advisories have also been issued to States/UTs to consider distributing fortified atta as per Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) standards. Strategies to effectively tackle hunger are already in place under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), which has a maximum coverage of 81.35 crore persons in the country. In addition, free of cost foodgrains have been distributed to nearly 80 Crore beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) for a total period of 19 months during 2020-21 and 2021-22.**

**(c): For full scaling up of supply of fortified rice under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM-POSHAN) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS), an annual quantity of about 350 LMT of fortified rice would be required.**

**(d): As per information available, currently around 3400 rice mills in the country have blending equipment having cumulative monthly blending capacity of approximately 28.0 LMT. The following infrastructure may be required for blending of FRKs and normal rice for proper and continuous operations: *(Equipment may vary as per the existing set up and desired Fortified rice production capacity)***

- **Storage Bins (depending on the existing set up and capacity)**
- **Load cells/Flow Balancer**
- **Vibratory Feeder (Calibrated as per desired production capacity)**
- **Elevators**
- **Blender (for the rice mills where modification of cylindrical grader is not feasible or cylindrical grader is not available)**
- **Programmable Logical Controls (PLC) (electrical)**
- **Other ancillary machineries (e.g. hopper, lid, agitator, magnet, electric motor, control system etc.)**

**(e) & (f): The incremental cost of rice fortification is paid in addition to the normal cost of rice to the States/UTs.**