

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

**LOK SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2594  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2024

**PROCESSING OF FORTIFIED RICE KERNELS**

2594. SHRI ARVIND DHARMAPURI:

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 maintains records of companies involved in the processing of Fortified Rice Kernels (FRKs) and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government regulates or monitors quality control for FRKs and if so, the details of the quality standards and control mechanisms in place;
- (c) the criteria established by the Government to determine eligible producers of FRKs; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to make FRKs accessible to the general public along with the details of both online and offline distribution initiatives?

**A N S W E R**  
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,  
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)

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(a) Yes. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) maintains the records of companies involved in the manufacturing of Fortified Rice Kernels (FRKs). The details are enclosed at Annexure.

(b) Yes. The steps taken by FSSAI to regulate and monitor the quality control of Fortified Rice Kernel (FRK) are as follows:

- The FSSAI has classified FRK under High Risk category. This mandates pre-license inspection of all FRK manufacturers as well as third party audit once in a year for Central licensed FRK manufacturers.
- The FSSAI has notified standards for Vitamin-Mineral Premix for preparation of FRK and Fortified Rice Kernel (FRK).
- The standardized methods have been developed for testing of fortificants (Iron, Folic Acid and B12) in FRK and premix for FRK.
- The guidelines on sampling of FRK and premix for FRK have been published.

- The FSSAI has mandated every batch testing of FRKs and upload such test reports on Food Safety Compliance System (FoSCoS) portal and mandatory mentioning of source of iron on the test reports of FRK and Premix for FRK.
- A dedicated portal, FoRTRACE (Fortified Rice Traceability) has been launched for traceability purpose of rice fortification starting from manufacturing of premix to Fortified Rice production.
- The FSSAI regularly issues list of laboratories having capability to analyse fortificants (Iron, Vitamin B9 and Vitamin B12) in FRK and premix for FRK to minimise anomalies and variation in results. This list is updated from time to time. Currently, there are 29 labs for FRK and 11 labs for premix and 3 referral labs for FRK and 2 referral labs for premix.
- The FSSAI barred petty manufacturers from obtaining registration and allowed only licenses for manufacturing of FRK in order to ensure greater amount of compliance and documentation.
- The designated officers and Food Safety Officers at State / Central Level conducts regular inspection of food businesses and sampling of food products including FRK at regular interval in their jurisdiction.

(c): The manufactures/producers of FRKs shall comply with hygiene and sanitary conditions of the premises as specified under Part II of Schedule 4 of Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulation, 2011.

(d): The Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulation, 2011 under sub regulation 2.4.6 (24c) for Fortified Rice Kernel states that "Fortified Rice Kernel shall only be sold for industrial purpose for manufacturing fortified rice and shall neither be sold in loose form nor be sold directly to the consumer." Hence, the FRK is not available for distribution to the general public for direct consumption.

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## ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2594 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 11.12.2024 IN LOK SABHA

The details on the active manufactures of Fortified Rice Kernels as on 30.11.2024 is tabulated as under:

State	Central License	State License
Andhra Pradesh	6	6
Assam	2	8
Biha	13	18
Chhattisgarh	85	69
Delhi	2	2
Gujarat	7	1
Haryana	38	3
Jammu and Kashmir	8	0
Jharkhand	6	1
Madhya Pradesh	16	26
Maharashtra	6	6
Odisha	31	4
Punjab	162	43
Rajasthan	7	3
Tamil Nadu	4	110
Telangana	19	16
Uttar Pradesh	36	25
Uttarakhand	2	0
West Bengal	22	25
Himachal Pradesh	0	1
Karnataka	0	7
Kerala	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>376</b>

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