

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.430
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27TH NOVEMBER, 2024

FORTIFIED RICE UNDER PMGKAY

430 SMT. SHAMBHAVI:
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:
SHRI RAJESH VERMA:
SHRI NARESH GANPAT MHASKE:

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

- (a) the details of the steps taken by the Government taken to monitor continuation of the supply of free fortified rice under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY);
- (b) whether this initiative aligns with the government's Anaemia Mukht Bharat strategy and the expected impact on reducing malnutrition and anaemia among vulnerable populations, particularly women and children and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the measures taken/being taken by the Government to ensure that fortified rice reaches the most remote and underserved communities;
- (d) whether the Government plans to monitor effective implementation of financial outlay of extension of fortified rice distribution and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether any studies or assessments have been conducted on the health benefits and outcomes of rice fortification since its introduction and if so, the details thereof?

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

(a): Rice Fortification Initiative was scaled up in three phases - Phase I (2021-22) covering Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) & PM-POSHAN, Phase II (2022-23) covering ICDS, PM-POSHAN and 291 Aspirational & High Burden districts under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Phase III (2023-24) covering ICDS, PM POSHAN and all districts under TPDS. Custom-milled rice has been replaced with fortified rice in every scheme of the Government and 100% coverage of distribution of fortified rice has been achieved by March, 2024.

(b): Food fortification is a globally recognized intervention to reduce the burden of micronutrient deficiencies. It is one of the interventions under the strategy of Anemia mukt Bharat and accordingly Rice Fortification has been initiated by the Government of India. Fortified rice is being distributed under ICDS and PM POSHAN scheme ensuring coverage of women and children beneficiaries in the country.

(c): The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) being implemented in all the States/UTs, on an all-India basis, aims to supplement the food requirements of up to 75% of the rural and up to 50% of the urban population, which at Census 2011 comes to 81.35 crore persons. Other than PMGKAY, the Government of India has also been allocating foodgrains under Other Welfare Schemes including ICDS, PM-POSHAN, Welfare Institutions & Hostel Scheme, etc.

Under the Rice Fortification Initiative, custom-milled rice has been replaced with fortified rice in every scheme of the Government and 100% coverage of distribution of fortified rice has been achieved by March, 2024.

(d): The financial implications of approximately Rs.17082 crore towards the continued supply of fortified rice from July, 2024 to December, 2028 under the various schemes of the Government are envisaged to be met, as part of food subsidy, as a central sector initiative.

(e): NITI Aayog has constituted a Core Committee to monitor the impact evaluation of the Rice Fortification Initiative. NITI Aayog and ICMR-NIN have taken up study in six districts in six different states of the country to evaluate the impacts of iron fortified rice supplied through the Public Distribution Systems (PDS) in India.
