

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

**LOK SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 6011  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL, 2026**

**RICE FORTIFICATION PROGRAMME**

**6011. SHRI MALAIYARASAN D:**

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a): the objectives and features of the Rice Fortification Programme;
- (b): the total quantity of fortified rice distributed under the programme so far through the Public Distribution System, the Mid-Day Meal Scheme and the Integrated Child Development Services;
- (c): the funds allocated and utilised for the implementation of the programme within Tamil Nadu so far;
- (d): whether the Government has conducted any evaluation or scientific study regarding the effectiveness of fortified rice in addressing malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies; and
- (e): the details of the steps taken by the Government to ensure quality control, safety standards and awareness among beneficiaries regarding the benefits of fortified rice under this programme?

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

---

(a): The Rice Fortification Initiative aims to provide fortified rice enriched with essential micronutrients such as iron, folic acid, and vitamin B12 to tackle micronutrient deficiencies, particularly anemia. In order to achieve uniform nutritional impact of fortified rice among the targeted population, the Government of India is supplying fortified rice through the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) Scheme, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme and in Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) in all States and Union Territories (UTs).

(b): So far Approx. 1098 LMTs of fortified rice has been distributed/lifted under the various food safety-net programmes of Government of India.

(c): For the implementation of Rice Fortification Initiative across all States/UTs, the Government of India has allocated Rs.1323.38 Cr. for F.Y. 2022-23, Rs. 2679.47 Cr. for F.Y. 2023-24 and then extended the initiative at an annual financial implication of Rs.3796 Cr.

Food subsidy is released for distribution of foodgrains (Wheat, Rice and Coarse grains), no commodity wise food subsidy released is maintained by Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD). The total food subsidy released for distribution of foodgrains (including fortified rice) within Tamil Nadu from F.Y. 2022-23 to till dated (as on 24.03.2026) is as under:

S.No.	Financial Year	Amount (in Rs. Crore)
1	2022-23	8685.95
2	2023-24	7072.53
3	2024-25	6033.90
4	2025-26	7735.13

(d): NITI Aayog and Indian Council of Medical Research - National Institute of Nutrition (ICMR-NIN) have taken up a study in six districts in six different states (Telangana, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Assam) of the country to evaluate the impacts of iron fortified rice supplied through the Public Distribution Systems in India. The study includes all age groups, employs a time-series, repeat cross-sectional design and covers approximately 10,000 individuals.

Additionally, The State Government of Uttar Pradesh, with the support from the United Nations World Food Programme, conducted an efficacy and effectiveness study on rice fortification in *Chandauli* district. The study showed a significant 7.5 % point reduction in anemia prevalence among the children (6-59 months) after the introduction of rice fortification, with rates decreasing from 65.7% (baseline: National Family Health Survey-5, Jan. 2021) to 58.2% (endline: July-August 2023).

In addition, ICMR-NIN, Hyderabad also conducted a review of literature and found that there is a limited evidence of transient adverse effects among participants consuming iron fortified rice. Another notable finding is that considering the level of iron fortification in rice in India, the total iron intake through fortified rice is less than 0.59 mg/kg/day for any age group, which is well within the normal daily iron requirement.

(e): To ensure quality control of fortified rice, each lot of fortified rice (FR) is being accepted only after quantitative analysis. All physical parameters, including the blending ratio of Fortified Rice Kernels (FRK) are thoroughly checked.

To ensure compliance with the set standards, limits, & other statutory requirements under the Act and Food Safety and Standards Regulations (FSSR), FSSAI through the State/UT Food Safety Authorities and its four regional offices, conducts regular surveillance, inspections, sampling, and enforcement activities in the country. If any deviations from the standards or violations to the FSSR are observed, the defaulting food business operators (FBOs) are subject to regulatory actions, including punitive measures, as stipulated under the FSS Act 2006 and its associated rules.

FSSAI has approved 56 laboratories for testing of micronutrients (Iron, Vitamin B9 and Vitamin B12) in Fortified Rice (FR), 31 labs for Fortified Rice Kernel (FRK) and 17 labs for Vitamin-Mineral premix for FRK across the country. Additionally, 454 officials have been notified

as Food Safety Officers for the purpose of surveillance sampling of FRK. Each batch of FRK is being tested at FSSAI empaneled National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accredited laboratory before its blending with conventional rice.

To educate people about the benefits of fortified rice, various State Governments were requested to organize programmes to create awareness on benefits of fortified rice and its positive impact on nutritional security in the tribal areas of the country. Besides, various workshops were held at Divisional/Regional Office level by Food Corporation of India (FCI) to sensitize the stakeholders about the nutrition related benefits of fortified rice.

Information, Education, Communication (IEC) materials were also shared by DFPD with States/UTs for their dissemination for spreading awareness about it. A provision of Administrative/Contingency Cost which inter-alia includes IEC and Capacity Building to the tune of Rs. 5.00 lakh per district was made, which was to be borne by the Government of India, during the implementation of rice fortification initiative in Phase-II and Phase-III.

\*\*\*\*\*