

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 817
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH FEBRUARY, 2026

TECHNICAL CHALLENGES IN FORTIFIED RICE MIXING

817. SHRI VISHALDADA PRAKASHBAPU PATIL:
DR. BACHHAV SHOBHA DINESH:
MS. PRANITI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE:

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

- (a): whether the Labs meant for uniform mixing of Fortified Rice Kernels (FRKs) with regular rice at the recommended ratio of 1:100 facing any technical challenge and if so, the details thereof;
- (b): the details of the measurable quality assurance systems to ensure each batch of fortified rice meets the micronutrient specifications such as iron, folic acid, vitamin B12 etc.;
- (c): whether the Government has taken note that despite Maharashtra being a major beneficiary State under the fortified rice programme only about 10 per cent of the total laboratories approved for testing fortified rice are currently operational in the State;
- (d): if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e): the details of total approved and currently operational testing labs for testing fortificants in Fortified Rice (FR) in Maharashtra, as of 2025?

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): No technical challenges have been reported in blending of Fortified Rice Kernels (FRKs) with regular rice at a ratio of 1:100 during the milling stage.
 - (b): The following steps have been taken for quality assurance of Fortified Rice:
 - The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has notified standards for Fortified Rice (FR), Fortified Rice Kernel (FRK) and Vitamin-Mineral Premix for FRK.
 - The FSSAI has developed standardized methods for testing of fortificants (Iron, Folic Acid and B12) in FR, FRK and premix to achieve uniform test results across the country.
 - The FSSAI has published Guidelines on sampling of FR, FRK and premix for FRK to ensure drawal of representative samples.

➤ Each batch of Fortified Rice Kernels (FRKs) is being tested at FSSAI empanelled National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accredited laboratory before its blending with the conventional rice.

(c) to (e): As on December 2025, the FSSAI has approved 56 laboratories for testing of micronutrients (Iron, Folic acid 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 including 8 labs of FR, 4 labs of FRK and 3 labs of premix in the state of Maharashtra.
