

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.650
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6TH DECEMBER, 2023**

SCHEMES FOR DISTRIBUTION OF FORTIFIED RICE

**650. SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY:
SHRI PRATAP CHANDRA SARANGI:
SHRI C.R. PATIL:
SHRI ANURAG SHARMA:
SHRI SANGAM LAL GUPTA:**

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

- (a) the programmes, schemes and missions under which the Government is undertaking the distribution of fortified rice;**
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to educate people about the benefits of fortified rice;**
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any guidelines for quality control on the production and distribution of fortified rice;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and**
- (e) the number of districts of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha that are being covered under the Rice Fortification Programme?**

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

(a): Government of India has approved the supply of fortified rice throughout the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) Scheme and Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) and in Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) which include inter-alia Schemes for Adolescent Girl (SAG), Annapurna Scheme, Welfare Institutions and Hostels Scheme across the country in a phased manner.

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(b): 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. Accordingly, workshops/seminars in 9 districts having tribal population – in the States of Gujarat (Vapi), Maharashtra (Nashik and Nandurbar), Chhattisgarh (Kanker), Jharkhand (East Singhbhum), Madhya Pradesh (Shahdol, Mandla, Barwani) and Kerala (Wayanad) were conducted with the participation of DFPD, FCI and other stakeholders such as Field Experts, Medical Professionals, members of Media, prominent personalities, local leaders and Development Partners. Besides, various workshops were held at Divisional/Regional Office level by FCI to sensitize the stakeholders about the nutrition related benefits of fortified rice. Further, FSSAI has also issued advisory to Commissioners of Food Safety of all States/UTs to run special campaigns among the beneficiaries of Public Distribution System (PDS) to create awareness about the nutritional benefits of the fortified rice.

IEC materials were also shared by this Department with States/UTs for their dissemination for spreading awareness about it.

FSSAI has also developed and released various IEC materials for the fortified foods, which are available in Hindi and English languages at <https://fortification.fssai.gov.in/media-gallery>.

A provision of Administrative/Contingency Cost which inter-alia includes Information, Education, Communication (IEC) and Capacity Building to the tune of Rs. 5.00 lakh per district has been made.

(c) and (d): Based on the protocols/standards/Standard Operating Procedures notified/formulated by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and Bureau of Indian standards (BIS) and consultations with various stakeholders in order to maintain the quality standards & to provide best quality fortified rice to the eligible beneficiaries, the "Operational Guidelines on Quality Control for Fortified Rice Kernels (FRK) and Fortified Rice (FR)" has been formulated and issued on 13.12.2022. Besides this, FSSAI has also undertaken the following steps in this regard:-

- FSSAI has formulated guidelines on sampling of Fortified Rice (FR), Fortified Rice Kernels (FRK) and Vitamin Mineral Premix for FRK.**
- FSSAI has notified 42 laboratories for testing of Fortified Rice, 21 laboratories for testing of Fortified Rice Kernel and 10 laboratories for Vitamin-Mineral Premix for FRK.**

FSSAI had conducted a surveillance drive with respect to Fortified Rice Kernel (FRK) manufacturers. Based on the outputs of the surveillance drive, an enforcement drive for lifting FRK samples has been initiated vide letter dated 11.08.2023.

(e): Rajasthan is a wheat consuming State and as such, fortified rice is not distributed in the State under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). 33 districts of Gujarat, 75 Districts of Uttar Pradesh and 30 districts of Odisha are implementing the rice fortification initiative.
