

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.951  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2023**

**DISTRIBUTION OF FORTIFIED RICE**

**951. SHRI V.K. SREEKANDAN:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the State of Kerala has asked the Centre to review the move to compulsorily distribute fortified rice through all fair price shops, citing that indigenous rice varieties in the State are rich in minerals;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also true that Kerala was willing to supply custom-milled rice produced in Kerala, after fortification through the Public Distribution System if the Centre bore the cost of fortifying the rice;
- (d) if so, whether the Centre has agreed to the said proposal of the State Government of Kerala;
- (e) whether it is also true that Kerala has demanded that Chambavari should not be fortified; and
- (f) if so, whether it is also true that the centre has not accepted the request of the State Government in this regard?

**A N S W E R**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)**

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(a) to (c) : The State Government of Kerala had requested the Department of Food and Public Distribution to exempt the State from the fortification of food grains citing the reasons that the Custom Milled Rice (CMR) is rich in micro nutrients. However, no report/evidence in this regard was made available by the State Government. The initiative of Rice Fortification is funded 100% by the Government of India as part of food subsidy in the form of incidental in the Cost Sheet for the period upto 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2024. Also, it is uniformly applicable to all States/UTs.

**(d) & (e): Under NFSA, the FCI supplies two categories of rice viz. 'common' and 'Grade A'. With regard to the other varieties of rice locally procured by States/UTs including Chambavari rice, the nutritional content can be ascertained by the State in consultation with Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). Besides, Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Foods) Regulation, 2018 provides standards for fortified rice, which is Rice when fortified with micronutrients. Under the Government initiative of rice fortification, these micronutrients viz. Iron, Vitamin B12 and Folic Acid are blended in the form of Fortified Rice Kernels (FRKs) in the normal rice in the ratio of 1:100.**

**(f): The Government of India had consultations with all the stakeholders concerned including States/UTs while reaching the decision for supply of fortified rice throughout the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) and every Government Scheme in all States and UTs to be implemented in phased manner.**

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