

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.77  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024

**SUPPLY OF NON-IRON FORTIFIED RICE TO CONTRAINDICATED  
THALASSEMIA AND SICKLE CELL ANAEMIA PATIENTS**

77 SHRI ANEEL PRASAD HEGDE:

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

- (a) whether any arrangements have been put into place to supply non-iron fortified rice to contraindicated patients of thalassemia and sickle cell anaemia as per their National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013 entitlements; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**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) and (b): Government of India has approved for supply of fortified rice through various schemes of Government in all States and Union Territories by March 2024, in a phased manner.

As per Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (Fortification of Foods) Regulations 2018, the iron is added in the form of Ferric pyrophosphate in the prescribed range of (28mg–42.5mg/kg) for Rice Fortification. Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Nutrition (ICMR- NIN) in its white paper on "Efficacy and Safety of Iron Fortified Rice in India" has concluded that the total iron intake through fortified rice less than 0.59mg/kg body weight/day for any age group is unlikely to cause any adverse effect.

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