

सुधांशु पाण्डेय

सचिव

SUDHANSHU PANDEY
SECRETARY



भारत सरकार
खाद्य एवं सार्वजनिक वितरण विभाग
उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय
कृषि भवन, नई दिल्ली - 110 001
Government of India
Department of Food & Public Distribution
Ministry of Consumer Affairs
Food & Public Distribution
New Delhi-110 001
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D.O. No. 15-6/2019-BP-II
Dated - 18 September, 2020

Dear Sh. Sharma,

As you are aware, to address anaemia and micro-nutrient deficiency in the country, Government of India has approved the Centrally Sponsored Pilot Scheme on "Fortification of Rice & its Distribution under Public Distribution System(PDS)" for a period of 3 years beginning in 2019-20 with total budget outlay of Rs. 174.64 cr. The scheme is to focus on 15 Districts preferably 1 district per State and is being funded by Government of India in the ratio of 90:10 in respect of North Eastern, Hilly and Island States and 75:25 in respect of the rest of the States.

2. Fifteen State Governments i.e. Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand & Madhya Pradesh have consented and identified their respective district for implementation of the Pilot Scheme. Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra have already started distributing fortified rice under the scheme in their selected district.

3. In India, at present there are more than 26,000 rice mills available, which generate significant employment in agrarian India. For starting rice fortification, these mills need to install a blending unit, which involves some additional investment on the part of the mills. Currently, there are very few rice mills, which are having blending facility available. However, there are many states, who have conveyed to this Department in a video conference that they are enthusiastic for this business opportunity provided bank finance and subsidy support under Capital linked subsidy Scheme of MSME, is extended to install blending unit for Fortified Rice Kernels (FRK) with normal rice for producing fortified rice to meet the requirements. The Department is actively pursuing a strategy for supplying fortified rice under ICDS and MDM Schemes, which target the most vulnerable sections, viz., young children and lactating mothers

4. Given the urgency and the importance of the above initiative, I shall be grateful if you could kindly consider allowing a subsidy or some suitable provision for providing financial assistance/ package under PM's esteemed 'Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan-Corpus for MSMEs' to encourage the existing and new Rice Millers to equip themselves with blending units to supply fortified rice under various safety net programmes like PDS, ICDS, Mid Day Meal etc. I am enclosing a list of Rice Mills (State-wise) who could be proactively contacted by Regional officers of the DC, MSME to accomplish this job. We are looking at a quantity of about 60 LMT to begin with. I am endorsing a copy of this letters to all States Food and Civil Supplies secretaries with a request that they may pursue with MSME as well as their own Industry's department for speedy implementation.

with warm regard

Yours Sincerely,

(Sudhanshu Pandey)

Shri A.K Sharma,
Secretary,
Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises,
Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi-110011