

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
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Dear Anita,

D.O. No. 15-6/2019-BP-II
Dated - 18 September, 2020

As you are aware, to address anemia 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" 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.

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 in the selected district.

3. Rice has the highest off-take in the government safety net programmes such as ICDS, MDM, PDS with potential to reach the most vulnerable population of the country and fortification of rice may change the malnutrition scenario in a great way. In view of the importance of fortified food for Children's health, Department of School Education & Literacy, Government of India has consented and agreed to bear the incremental cost (Rs. 0.73/Kg) on account of fortification of rice in respect of Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDM). A Video Conference meeting was held on 7th August, 2020 with the participating States/UTs as well as other stakeholders including the Department of School Education & Literacy, to prepare a strategy, for effective implementation of plan for distribution of fortified rice under MDM in addition to PDS. Recently during another meeting chaired by me with the states and other stakeholders on 15th September, 2020, it came out that the States/UTs are expecting intimation/ instructions from Department of School Education & Literacy to go for complete fortified rice distribution under MDM.

4. I shall be grateful, if a communication in this regard is sent to the concerned states' Education Departments to take necessary steps to prepare a strategy for distribution of fortified rice in MDM, in consultation with the respective Food Department/FCI. We will be adding states for supply of fortified rice as and when states get ready but our target is to cover entire MDM supply of rice from April 1, 2021.

with warm regards

Yours Sincerely,

(Sudhanshu Pandey)

Smt. Anita Karwal,
Secretary,
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