

सुधांशु पाण्डेय

सचिव

**SUDHANSHU PANDEY**  
**SECRETARY**



भारत सरकार  
खाद्य एवं सार्वजनिक वितरण विभाग  
उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय  
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D.O. No. 15-6/2019-BP-II  
Dated 18 September, 2020

*Dear Ram Mohan,*

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 three years beginning in 2019-20 with total budget outlay of Rs.174.64 cr. The scheme is to focus on 15 districts preferably one 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 the children, pregnant and lactating mothers, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India had agreed to bear the incremental cost (Rs. 0.73/ kg) of fortification of rice in Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS). A Video Conference meeting was held on 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2020 with the participating States/UTs as well as other stakeholders including the MWCD to prepare a strategy, for effective implementation of plan for distribution of fortified rice under ICDS in addition to PDS. Recently during another meeting chaired by me with the states and other stakeholders on 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2020, it came out that the States/UTs are expecting intimation/ instructions from MWCD to go for complete fortified rice distribution under ICDS.

4. I shall be grateful, if a communication in this regard is sent to the concerned States' WCD Departments to take necessary steps to prepare a strategy for distribution of fortified rice in ICDS 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 ICDS supply of rice from April 1, 2021.

*With warm regards*

Yours Sincerely,

*(Sudhanshu Pandey)*

**Shri Ram Mohan Mishra,**  
Secretary,  
Ministry of Women and Child Development,  
Shastri Bhawan,  
New Delhi-110001