

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2163
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31th JULY, 2026**

FORTIFIED RICE PROGRAMME

2163. SHRI APPALANAIDU KALISETTI:

Will the **Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has introduced the fortified rice programme under Government nutrition schemes in the country and if so, the details thereof, including the schemes covered, target beneficiaries and the extent of coverage across States/UTs, State/UTs-wise;
- (b) whether the Government relied on any scientific studies, pilot projects or expert committee recommendations prior to the introduction of the fortified rice programme in the country and if so, the key findings thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has undertaken any post-implementation assessment of the health and nutritional outcomes of fortified rice among different beneficiary groups, including individuals with haemoglobinopathies such as sickle cell disease and thalassaemia in high-prevalence areas and if so, the key findings thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government has issued any guidelines, advisories or protocols for monitoring the quality, safety and distribution of fortified rice in the country, particularly in areas with a high prevalence of haemoglobinopathies and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE
(SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)**

(a) to (d): The Department of Food and Public Distribution has informed that introduction of fortified rice had been initiated on the basis of studies available in India and abroad. However, they have also informed that the Government has decided to temporarily discontinue the universal supply of fortified rice under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojna (PMGKAY) and Other Welfare Scheme (OWS) of the Government of India in view of factors including concerns regarding the stability and shelf life of fortified rice under actual storage conditions. Distribution of fortified rice under PMGKY and OWS continues until existing stocks are exhausted.
