

Business Standard

Dated: 07.03.2018 (Wednesday)

E-Paper

Promoting food fortification for public health: MoS Health

IANNS

The government is encouraging enrichment of [food](#) items with micronutrients to remove dietary deficiencies among its citizens, [Minister](#) of State for [Health](#) and Family Welfare [Ashwini Kumar Choubey](#) said on Tuesday.

"In order to promote fortification as a means to address micro [nutrient](#) deficiencies, the [Food](#) Safety and [Standards Authority of India](#) (FSSAI) has operationalised the draft [Food](#) Safety and Standards (Fortification of Foods) Regulations, 2016 in October 2016," he said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

The regulations include provisions regarding standards for fortification of [food](#) articles namely wheat flour, rice, milk, [edible oil](#) and salt with vitamins and minerals, said the [minister](#) to a query on the laws for [food](#) fortification in the country.

"At present, all the major [oil producers](#) in the country are voluntarily fortifying at least one brand in their product portfolios," he said.

The FSSAI may from time to time mandate fortification of any [food](#) article under the regulations on the directions of the Central or the state governments in consultation with stakeholders, he added.

The [Women and Child Development Ministry](#) and the [Human Resource Development Ministry](#) have advised the use of double fortified salt with iron and iodine, wheat flour with iron, folic acid and vitamin B-12, and [edible oil](#) with vitamin A and D under their Integrated Child Development Scheme and Mid-day Meal Scheme.

Under [Food](#) Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales) Regulations, 2011, sale of only iodized salt is permitted for direct human consumption.

Further, [Food](#) Safety and Standards ([Food](#) Product Standards and [Food](#) Additives) Regulations, 2011 provide that vanaspati should contain synthetic Vitamin A.

Choubey said FSSAI has established [Food](#) Fortification Resource Centre in collaboration with [Tata Trusts](#) and various international NGOs working in the field of [nutrition](#) as a resource centre to promote large-scale fortification of [food](#) and to nudge and facilitate [food](#) businesses to adopt fortification as a norm.

--IANNS