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Fortified rice to be introduced in mid-day meals in Karnataka: Minister



STAFF REPORTER

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Ganitha Kalika Andolana extended to six more districts

It will be a power-packed lunch for close to five lakh students in 2,600 government schools in three districts in Karnataka.

They will be given fortified rice under the mid-day meal scheme from this month. The State government has entered into an agreement with The Akshaya Patra Foundation to roll out what is being termed one of the biggest ever programmes in terms of reach in staple food fortification.

To begin with, schools in Dharwad, Ballari and Bengaluru will be covered.

Tanveer Sait, Minister for Primary and Secondary Education, said at a press conference here on Thursday that as many as 12 lakh students were already benefiting from the scheme. "For now, we will provide schoolchildren in three districts with protein-coated rice. Later, we will see if in-house training can be provided to our staff on how to make this food," he added.

Activity-based learning

Mr. Sait also announced that the second phase of the 'Ganitha Kalika Andolana,' in collaboration with Akshara Foundation, will be extended to 1.29 lakh students in classes four and five in 4,149 schools in Bengaluru Rural, Chickballapur, Chamarajanagar, Chitradurga, Gadag and Dharwad. The programme, which introduces 'activity-based' learning in mathematics, was initially introduced in 2015-16 in Bidar, Kalaburagi, Raichur, Ballari, Koppal and Yadgir.

As many as three lakh students in 7,515 schools have been covered in the first phase.

Inquiry into book audit

Tanveer Sait, Minister for Primary and Secondary Education, said an inquiry has been ordered into the lack of audit of grants received by the Karnataka Textbook Society (KTBS).

About Rs. 798 crore grants of the society received between 2006-2007 and 2015-2015 had allegedly not been audited by the Accountant General. An autonomous body under the State government, the society is involved in printing and supplying textbooks free of cost to students from government and aided schools across the State.

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