

DR. N. C. SAXENA, COMMISSIONER AND
HARSH MANDER, SPECIAL COMMISSIONER OF THE SUPREME COURT
IN THE CASE: PUCL Vs UOI & ORS. WRIT PETITION (Civil) NO. 196 of 2001

28.11.2007
icds.coverage/518/allstates.

Shri. P C Sarma
Chief Secretary
Government of Assam
New Secretariat
Guwahati
Assam.

SUB: Coverage of SC/ST habitations and urban slums under ICDS

Dear Shri. Sarma,

As you are aware, the ICDS is one of the schemes being monitored by us in our capacity as Commissioners of the Supreme Court in CWP 196/2001.

The Supreme Court in its order dated 07 October 2004 stated, “efforts shall be made that **all SC/ST hamlets/habitations in the country have anganwadi centres as early as possible**” and that “all State/Union Territories shall make earnest efforts to cover the slums under ICDS.” In the same order it was also stated, “All states/UTs shall make earnest effort to **cover the slums under the ICDS**”

Further in its order dated 13 December 2006 directed that “Government of India shall sanction and operationalize a minimum of 14 lakh AWCs in a phased and even manner starting forthwith and ending December 2008. In doing so, the Central Government shall **identify SC and ST hamlets/habitations for AWCs on a priority basis.**” In the same order, the Court also asked, “Chief Secretaries of all State Governments/UTs to submit affidavits to the Honorable Supreme Court with details of all habitations with a majority of SC/ST households, the availability of AWCs in these habitations, and the plan of action for ensuring that all these habitations have functioning AWCs within two years.” However, this information was not fully provided in the affidavits that have been filed in response.

We do hope that the above orders have been complied with in letter and spirit. In this context we request the following information from you:

- 1) All Government orders issued and full details of action taken to ensure that all SC/ST hamlets/habitations and slums have anganwadi centres.
- 2) Please confirm that SC/ ST hamlets are defined as those rural settlements with more than 50 percent SC /ST population. Urban slums include both legally authorised and ‘unauthorised’ slums.

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- 3) The present status of coverage of SC/ST hamlets and slums under ICDS in the following format:

	Total number in State	Number having an anganwadi centre
SC habitations		
ST habitations		

No. of Urban slums in State	Total Slum Population in State	Number of anganwadi centres in urban slums in the State

- 4) Details of anganwadi centres in the following format:

Total number of new AWCs sanctioned (Phase I and Phase II expansion)	
Total number of new AWCs operationalised	
Number of new AWCs operationalised in SC habitations	
Number of new AWCs operationalised in ST habitations	
Number of new AWCs operationalised in slum habitations	

In case the above information is not available, we request you to kindly have conducted a survey of the total number of SC/ST habitations and urban slums in the State within 6 months, so as to ensure that anganwadi centres are provided to those who most need it, in compliance with the orders with the Supreme Court.

We request you to kindly send this information within the next two weeks.

With regards,

Dr. N.C. Saxena

Harsh Mander