

January 11th, 2008.
ICDS/532/Orissa.

Shri. Ajit Kumar Tripathy
Chief Secretary
Government of Orissa
Orissa Secretariat
Bhuvaneshwar
Orissa.

Sub: Status of Implementation of ICDS in Orissa.

Dear Shri. Ajit Kumar Tripathy,

As you know we have been appointed by the Supreme Court to monitor food and employment schemes under PUCL vs. Union of India, CWP 196/2001. We have recently submitted the Seventh Report on the implementation of these schemes all across the country to the Supreme Court. We would like to bring to your notice some issues of concern in relation to the ICDS in Orissa.

1. Despite data being collected, compiled and Monthly Progress Reports being prepared on ICDS, it is noted that the latest one available on the state ICDS website is from 2002. We request you to please take necessary steps to make these reports and all the information related to the ICDS available on the website. The ICDS website of the Maharashtra Government (www.icds.gov.in), for instance, is not only very informative but is also a very good example of proactive disclosure of information about the programme. You may consider re-modelling your ICDS website along the lines that Maharashtra has done.
2. The number of children in the 0-6 age group according to the anganwadi survey register is 4427112 and of this 3770595 children (about 85.%) are beneficiaries of the SNP programme.
3. However, the number of 0-6 children in the state as per Census 2001 is 5358810. Therefore only about 80% of the eligible children have been identified by the anganwadi survey. That means only 70% of the eligible have been benefiting from the SNP programme. A mapping must please be done to ensure that every habitation and slum has been covered by an anganwadi centre and within each area every child has been reached out to (as per Supreme Court orders).
4. Our calculations show that per beneficiary per day expenditure of the state is a mere Rs. 0.59, much lower to the norm which is Rs. 2 for children, Rs 2.70 for severely malnourished children and Rs 2.30 for pregnant/lactating women. What are the reasons for this, and what are our plans within what time frame to bring these to national norms.

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

5. We hope that the supply of SNP is soon handed over completely to local groups from the contractors. As we have repeatedly pointed out in the past, the direction of the Supreme Court is unambiguous and efforts must be made to ensure that a total decentralisation of the SNP procurement, processing and supply is completed without any further delay. This entails the handing over of this process to the most appropriate decentralised unit at the village level like the women's SHGs, Mahila Mandals, Panchayats, Mother's/ Parent Committees etc. This must happen both for the 0-3 age group, lactating and pregnant women and adolescent girls where THR is being provided as well as the 3-6 age group where hot, cooked meals are being provided at the centre.
6. Of all the SC/ST habitations of the states, only 4167 are reported to have an Anganwadi Centre. We would therefore request you to accord this the highest priority in the ICDS expansion since the Supreme Court order specifically directs State Governments/UTs to ensure universal coverage of SC/ ST habitations as a priority.
7. Similarly, in line with the Supreme Court orders, we would also request a detailed survey of all urban slums and universal coverage of children living in all urban slums, across the State on a priority basis. Please separately list the numbers of SC ST dominated hamlets and the population in each urban area under slums (both authorised and unauthorised) in the state, what is the current coverage of ICDS centres in these hamlets and slums, and the plans for filling the gap.
8. Further, we urge you to conduct a campaign to include disabled children under ICDS. For this Anganwadi level survey of disabled children should be undertaken in a time bound manner, and in future data at ICDS centre upwards to project, district and state levels disaggregated for coverage of disabled children.
9. We would be grateful if the State Government ensures that the necessary steps are taken to ensure that children of all migrant workers have access to all the six services of the ICDS. Please send us a copy of the state Governments instructions in this regard.

We request the Government of Orissa to look into the above listed matters and send us an action taken report on the same at the earliest.

With regards,

Dr. N.C. Saxena

Harsh Mander

CC: Ms. Vidya Das, Advisor to the Commissioners to the Supreme Court, Orissa.