

January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008.  
ICDS/535/ Meghalaya.

Shri. Ranjan Chatterjee  
Chief Secretary  
Government of Meghalaya.  
Meghalaya.

**Sub: Status of Implementation of ICDS in Meghalaya.**

Dear Shri. Ranjan Chatterjee,

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 Meghalaya.

1. Firstly, we appreciate the efforts of the Government of Meghalaya towards ensuring transparency in making available the information related to the ICDS on its website. However, the detailed information regarding all the services of ICDS is missing. The ICDS website of the Maharashtra Government ([www.icds.gov.in](http://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. We recognise the fact that the number of children in the 0-6 age group according to the anganwadi survey register are **274187** and **287773** children (about **105%**) are beneficiaries of the SNP programme. However, the number of children in the age group of 0-6 in the state as per census 2001 are **467979**. Therefore, only about 61.5 % of the eligible children have been identified by the anganwadi survey who are actually getting SNP. A mapping must be done to ensure that every habitation has been covered by an anganwadi centre and within each area every child has been reached out to (as per Supreme Court orders).
3. The coverage of pregnant and lactating women under SNP of the ICDS is also low. We, therefore, request you kindly take steps to ensure all the beneficiaries are being reached out under ICDS.
4. Out of the **3388** AWCs sanctioned upto 31.03.2007, only **3165** AWCs have been operationalised as on 30.06.2007. Efforts must be made to operationalise all the AWCs at the earliest.
5. The NFHS-3 data has shown the coverage under immunisation in the state is **33 %** which is much less than the national average of **44 %**. We would, therefore, request you to accord this the highest priority in universalising all the services of the ICDS in the State.

**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**

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6. It is matter of great concern the percentage of children who are underweight (under 3 years) have increased from **38%** to **46%** during the last eight years since NFHS-2. Kindly examine the reasons for this, and let us know the assessment of the state government for this very worrying increase.
7. We acknowledge that Meghalaya is one of the states in the country that are making concerted efforts to comply with the Supreme Court order of October 2004 banning contractors in supply of SNP. 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. We would appreciate it if the State Government can kindly send us a detailed report documenting the experience as this can be proposed as a model to other states.
8. The Supreme Court in its order dated 13<sup>th</sup> December 2006 made it clear that at least Rs. 2/- per child per day, Rs. 2.30 for every pregnant women, nursing mother/adolescent girl per day and Rs. 2.70 for every severely malnourished child per day should be spent for supplementary nutrition under ICDS. However, our calculation shows that per beneficiary per day expenditure of the state is **Rs. 2.04** which is appreciable. We hope that Meghalaya will keep these efforts continue and increase the expenditure on the SNP further.
9. The information on expenditure of funds for SNP available with us is reported only up to December 2006. Please send us detailed information on allocations (State and Central) and expenditure for the entire year 2006-07 and also the current year 2007-08.
10. 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 and 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. We also recently sent you a letter requesting for information on coverage of SC/ST habitations and urban slums under ICDS ([icds.coverage/518/allstates](#) dated 30.11.2007). Kindly respond to this letter also at the earliest.
11. 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.
12. 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

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ICDS. We would appreciate it if you can please send us a copy of the state Governments instructions in this regard.

We request the Government of Meghalaya 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: Shri. Tarun Bhartiya, Advisor to the Commissioners to the Supreme Court, Meghalaya.