

January 29th, 2008.
ICDS/536/ Uttaranchal.

Shri. Surjit Kishore Das
Chief Secretary
Government of Uttaranchal
Uttaranchal Secretariat, 4,
Subhash Road
Dehradun
Uttaranchal.

Sub: Status of Implementation of ICDS in Uttaranchal.

Dear Shri. S. K. Das,

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 Uttaranchal.

1. We would appreciate if State Government could kindly take necessary steps to make the reports and all the information related to the ICDS available on the website the way Maharashtra Government has done. The ICDS website of the Maharashtra Government (www.icds.gov.in) 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 are **762747** and of this **538644** children (about 70.6 %) are beneficiaries of the SNP programme. Efforts must be made to improve the coverage as about **30%** of the children do not receive the benefits of the SNP which is a critical part of the ICDS programme. We would be grateful if you could please also examine and let us know the reasons why such a large gap still persists in this basic element of ICDS operationalisation.
3. Moreover, the number of children in the age group of 0-6 in the state as per census 2001 are **1360032**. Therefore, only about **39.6 %** 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).

4. 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.
5. Out of the **9664** AWCs sanctioned upto 31.03.2007, only **7754** AWCs have been operationalised as on 30.06.2007. Efforts must be made to operationalise all the AWCs at the earliest.
6. The NFHS-3 data has shown the coverage under immunisation in the state has increased from **41%** to **60%** during the last eight years since NFHS-2. We appreciate the fact that state is taking efforts to increase the immunisation coverage, however, there still persists a huge gap. Therefore, efforts must be continued to increase the coverage to the full.
7. We recognise the fact that the percentage of children who are underweight (under 3 years) have decreased from **42 %** to **38%** during the last eight years since NFHS-2. However, 38% constitutes a large size of Children of Uttaranchal. We therefore request you to accord this the highest priority in your intervention in the state.
8. We acknowledge that Uttaranchal 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. We hope that the supply is soon handed over to local groups. 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.
9. I addressed a Seminar at Mussoorie last month in which two Collectors from Uttaranchal were also present. They confirmed that the Mix being provided under SNP is not consumed by the children on the spot, as it is not according to local taste. Thus the provision of SNP is having little impact on improving their nutrition intake. A hot cooked meal, as is provided under MDM, will not only be more nutritious but will be found tasty by the children and thus be consumed at the AWC centre itself. Carrying the Mix to the household is certainly not the intention of the scheme.

**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**

10. The Supreme Court in its order dated 13th 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. However, due to non availability of data we could not make calculations regarding per beneficiary per day expenditure of the state for the SNP under ICDS. We request you kindly send us the detailed information on total expenditure on SNP, total number of beneficiaries and allocations (State and Central) for the entire year 2006-07 and also the current year 2007-08.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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. We would appreciate it if you please send us a copy of the state Governments instructions in this regard.

We request the Government of Uttaranchal 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