

**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**

January 29th, 2008.
ICDS/537/Rajasthan.

Shri. D.C. Samant
Chief Secretary
Government of Rajasthan
Government Secretariat
Jaipur
Rajasthan.

Sub: Status of Implementation of ICDS in Rajasthan.

Dear Shri. D.C. Samant,

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 Rajasthan.

1. Firstly, we appreciate the efforts of the Government of Rajasthan 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. We request you to please take necessary steps to make all the 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 **7093107** and of this **2594188** children (about **36.6 %**) are beneficiaries of the SNP programme. This is much worse than national average which is 56.6%. Efforts must be made to improve the coverage as more than 60% 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 **10651002**. Therefore, only about **24.4 %** of the eligible children have been identified by the anganwadi survey who are actually getting SNP. 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. 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.

**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. Out of the 48372 AWCs sanctioned upto 31.03.2007, only 43307 AWCs have been operationalised as on 30.06.2007. Efforts must be made to operationalise all the AWCs at the earliest.
6. We acknowledge that the coverage under immunisation in the state has increased from 17% to 27% during the last eight years since NFHS-2. This is, however, not only worse than the national average of 46% but also makes Rajasthan as one of the least performers among other states. Kindly examine the reasons for this, and let us know the assessment of the state government for this very worrying low performance.
7. It is quite appreciable also that the percentage of children who are underweight (under 3 years) have decreased from 51% to 44% during the last eight years since NFHS-2. The 44% is still very high, therefore, we urge the Government of Rajasthan must treat this as an area of utmost priority for State intervention.
8. 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.
9. The October 7th 2004 order of the Supreme Court states, "...contractors shall not be used for supply of nutrition in Anganwadis and preferably ICDS funds shall be spent by making use of village communities, self-help groups and Mahila Mandals for buying of grains and preparation of meals". In spite of the order, the state government is still using private traders/contractors for the supply for SNP, in defiance of the Supreme Court orders. 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 also acknowledge that Rajasthan is making concerted efforts to comply with the Supreme Court order of banning contractors in supply of SNP and have involved SNPs/Mahila Mandals in supplying SNP to ICDS centres to some extent. We hope that the rest of the supply is also soon handed over to local groups.
10. Further, 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, our calculation shows that per beneficiary per day expenditure of the state is just Rs. 1.61 which is less than the norms. What are the reasons for this, and what are your plans within what time frame to bring these to national norms.
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

Office of the Supreme Court Commissioners

B-102, First Floor Sarvodaya Enclave New Delhi 110017 Telefax: +91-11-41829631; phone: +91-11-26851335/339;

Email: commissioners@vsnl.net website: www.supremecourtcommissioners.org

**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**

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. 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 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 could kindly send us a copy of the state Government's instructions in this regard.

We request the Government of Rajasthan 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