

**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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May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008.  
ICDS/571/Manipur.

Shri Jarnail Singh,  
Chief Secretary,  
Government of Manipur  
Imphal -795001

**Subject: Regarding the involvement of Contractors in ICDS scheme.**

Dear Shri Singh,

As you are aware, in our capacity as Commissioners of the Supreme Court in CWP 196/2001, PUCL v. UOI and others, we monitor the implementation of the food and employment related schemes in the country which fall under the purview of the case including the ICDS, MDMS, NREGA, NOAPS, TPDS, NMBS /JSY, NFBS.

We have come to know that 'ready to eat' food is being provided through private contractors based in Assam, as supplementary nutrition in the anganwadi centres in the state. It has been reported that this system is ridden with corruption. In this context, we would like to bring to your notice that the Supreme Court has clearly stated in its order dated 28 October 2004 that, "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." Therefore, purchasing ready to food eat from the contractors for the supply to AWCs is a violation of the Supreme Court order and will be construed as contempt of court.

The direction of the Supreme Court in this regard is unambiguous and we request that efforts must be made to ensure that the process total decentralisation of the SNP procurement 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

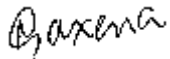
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level such as women's SHGs, Mahila Mandals, Panchayats, Mother's/ Parent Committees etc. This must happen both for the 0-3 age group children, lactating and pregnant women and adolescent girls for whom THR is to be provided as well as for 3-6 age group children for whom hot, cooked meals should be provided at the centre.

We would be very grateful if you can kindly send us a proposed action plan to ensure decentralisation and removal of private contractors, without disrupting supply of SNP for children in the anganwadi centres within two weeks. Further, we also request you to enquire into the reports of corruption in the current system of supply through contractors and send us an action taken report within two months.

With regards,



Dr. N.C. Saxena



Harsh Mander