

**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 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

ICDS/572/Maharashtra.

Shri. Vijay Stabir Singh,  
Secretary ICDS,  
Govt. of Maharashtra.

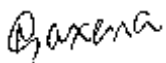
**Sub: Regarding the supply of SNP under ICDS.**

Dear Shri. Singh,

This is with reference to the opinion sought by the State Government on whether "federations of Self Help Groups" can be considered for the supply of SNP under the ICDS. It is our considered opinion that it would run contrary to the spirit of the Supreme Court order of October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2004. We believe that this would once again open the flood gates for contractors to make a back door entry into the scheme. As you might be aware the Supreme Court has stressed in subsequent orders as well (most notably the order dated July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006) that it will not permit the back door entry of contractors into the ICDS.

We would therefore strongly urge you not to allow the SNP provision through "federations of SHGs" and instead deepen the process of decentralisation that the Government of Maharashtra has undertaken so far as it has the potential of becoming a national model that can be replicated by other state governments.

Warm regards,



Dr. N.C. Saxena



Harsh Mander

CC: Mr. Josantony Joseph, Advisor to the Commissioners to the Supreme Court,  
Maharashtra.