

**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**

September 8th, 2008
Allschemes/585/ Assam.

Shri. P C Sarma
Chief Secretary
Government of Assam
New Secretariat
Dispur
Assam.

Sub: Status of implementation of food schemes.

Dear Shri. Sarma,

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 and NFBS. We would like to share some issues of concern with the State Government as below:

We have received your response to some of our earlier letters but we are yet to receive any kind of communication in response to the letters mentioned below.

1: letter no. icds.coverage/518/all states, dated 28.11.07.

2: letter no. Nrega/519/allstates, dated 29.11.08

We urge you to kindly send us a response to these letters within the next two weeks.

Internally Displaced People living in Relief Camps:

We appreciate the steps taken by the Government of Assam to provide nutritious food to the camp inmates, among other things, as mentioned in your letters dated 19th May 2008 and 19th April 2008. However, there are still a number of issues of concern raised by us in our earlier letters dated 20th June 2007 and 19th October 2007 which are still unresolved. Further, the

**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**

information provided in the aforesaid letters is not complete and, therefore, we would request you to send us the following information for each of the camps:

- a) List of camps, locations, when established, and current numbers of residents.
- b) What is the total number of (nuclear) families in all camps in the state, and what is their length of stay? All IDPs in these camps must be fully covered under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana Scheme. Please identify the IDP families that do not have Antyodaya cards and also provide us with a time frame (not longer than 6 months) in which the remainder will be covered, with reasons for non-coverage so far.
- c) The availability of anganwadi centres in each relief colony, and an additional one for every 1000 or part population in these camps, status of services, particularly hot cooked SNP and immunization services being provided under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS). Please provide us with a time frame (not longer than 3 months) in which the remainder will be covered, with reasons for non-coverage so far.
- d) The availability of a running primary and upper primary school, with hot cooked mid day meals provided for each child of school going age in every camp. Please provide us with a time frame in which the remainder will be covered, with reasons for non-coverage so far.
- e) The availability of a ration shop under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in each of these camps? Please provide us with a time frame in which the remainder will be covered, with reasons for non-coverage so far.
- f) Details of the numbers of adult camp residents who have been given job cards in each camp and the number of days on an average that each resident job card holding family got work in NREGS
- g) Number of residents in camps above the age of 65 years. Details of whether all these aged people in camps have received entitlement under the National Old Age Pension Scheme.
- h) Details of the number of beneficiaries of the National Maternity Benefit Scheme / Janani Suraksha Yojana, and number of pending applications under each of these.

Integrated Child Development Services:

We appreciate that the supply of SNP has been decentralised to the anganwadi centre level, as informed by you. Kindly send us the details of the kind of arrangement that has been made

**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**

for children under 3 years of age, with details of what the content of SNP is in case of take-home rations.

Our Advisor in Assam has informed us that SNP has been extended to only 122 days in a year for children in the age group of 3-5. We would like to bring to your notice that this is a violation of the Supreme Court order dated April 29, 2004 which states "All the sanctioned AWCs shall supply nutritious food/supplement to the children, adolescent girls and to pregnant and lactating women under the scheme for **300 days in a year**". Therefore, we request you to let us know the reasons for this inadequate supply of SNP and also to ensure that the SNP is extended to 300 days in a year immediately. Kindly send us an action taken report, in this regard, within one month. We would also like to know how many days children under 3 are being served from AWCs.

National Maternity Benefit Scheme:

We received your letter dated 18th April, 2008 regarding the coverage of women under the NMBS/JSY. We request you to further send us the information on the number of women who had home deliveries and received JSY. We further request the state government to monitor the JSY scheme, in future, by including data on place of delivery of the beneficiary.

National Old age Pension scheme:

We learnt from you during our last meeting that the Government of Assam has increased the pension amount under NOAPS by Rs. 50 per month since April 2007. We would like to know whether this money has been has been paid to all NOAPS beneficiaries.

Further, now that the NOAPS has been extended to cover all the BPL aged persons above 65 years, we would like to know what steps have been taken to cover all BPL aged persons with pensions. Kindly let us know what the current status of coverage under NOAPS in the state is and what the plan is to cover the gaps in coverage, if any.

**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**

With regards,

Dr. N.C. Saxena

Harsh Mander

CC: Dr. Sunil Kaul and Ms. Anju Talukdar, Advisors to the Commissioners to the Supreme Court, Assam.