

F.No.19-5/2003-CD-I (Pt.)
Government of India
Ministry of Women & Child Development

Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.

Dated: 7.3. 2006.

To

1. Secretaries In-charge of ICDS in all States/UTs
2. ✓ Director, ICDS in all States/UTs

Subject: Beneficiaries for supplementary nutrition under ICDS Scheme - regarding

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to say that doubts have been expressed by some States/UTs with regard to the number of beneficiaries (children below 3 years, children 3-6 years and pregnant & lactating mothers) that an Anganwadi Centre is expected to register and provide supplementary nutrition and other services under the ICDS Scheme.

2.1 In this connection, attention is invited to para 3.c of this Ministry's letter No. 12-15/2001-CD-I dated 21.2.2002 wherein it was clearly stated that the number of beneficiaries mentioned therein was based on average population coverage and the same was only indicative and should not be construed to imply either an upper limit or a lower limit for registration of beneficiaries. It has, however, been noticed that in some States, the indicative number of beneficiaries mentioned in the said letter dated 21.2.2002 is being taken as an upper limit for providing supplementary nutrition to beneficiaries of the Scheme.

2.2 No limit on number of beneficiaries:

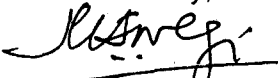
It is reiterated that there is no upper limit on the number of beneficiaries viz. children below 3 years, children 3-6 years and pregnant and lactating mothers that an Anganwadi Centre has to register and provide supplementary nutrition and other services. Every Anganwadi Centre shall register and provide supplementary nutrition and other services under the ICDS to all beneficiaries within the jurisdiction of that Centre.

3.1 The State Government of UP has, vide d.o. letter No. 25/60-2-06 dated 13.2.2006, sought clarification whether supplementary nutrition should be provided to malnourished children alone or even those children who fall in the normal category as per weight for age growth chart. In this connection attention is invited to this Department's letters No. 1-22/89-CD-I dated 11.1.1990 and No. 1/6/93-CD-I dated 20.7.1993 wherein it is stated that all eligible children and not only malnourished children should be provided supplementary nutrition.

3.2 Vide this Ministry's letter No. 19-5/2003-CD-I (Pt.) dated 29.11.2005, it has been clarified that supplementary nutrition shall not be confined to children, pregnant women and lactating mothers from low income group (BPL) families only.

3.3 In the result, it is again reiterated and clarified that all children in the age group of 6 months to 6 years and pregnant & lactating mothers shall be provided supplementary nutrition as per norms, irrespective of their nutrition or income status of the family to which they belong.

Yours faithfully,



(M.S. Negi)

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India
Tel.No. 23385614

Copy to:

1. Dr.N.C. Saxena, Commissioner for Supreme Court
2. NIPPCD, New Delhi.
3. World Food Programme, New Delhi
4. CARE India, New Delhi.
5. UNICEF, New Delhi.