

No. F. 1 22/89-VF
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT)
NEW DELHI, the 11th Jan. 1990.

To

The Secretaries Incharge of Department's
Dealing with ICDS in all States and Union Territories.

Subject:- **INTEGRATED CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (ICDS)**
SCHEME SUPPLEMENTARY NUTRITION TO CHILDREN.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to invite attention to the various communications on the subject of selection of beneficiaries of Supplementary Nutrition service under the ICDS Scheme. For facility of reference, the number and dates of those communications are given below:-

1.
 - a) Erstwhile Ministry of Social Welfare's letter No. 6-11/75-CD dated 26-11-75.
 - b) Erstwhile Ministry of Social Welfare's letter No. 12-3/75-CD dated 29-12-76.
 - c) Erstwhile Ministry of Social Welfare's letter No. 12-5/76-CD dated 4-03-77.
 - d) Erstwhile Ministry of Social Welfare's letter No. 12-5/75-CD dated 25-05-78.
 - e) Erstwhile Ministry of Social Welfare's letter No. 1-18/84-CD dated 30-11-84.
 - f) This Department's letter No.1-22/88-CD dated 12-09-88.
2. The communications referred to above indicate inter alia, the manner of selection of beneficiaries of supplementary nutrition in the ICDS Anganwadis. Based on these instructions, the beneficiaries of supplementary nutrition in an ICDS Anganwadi would belong to one or the other of the following categories:-
 - a) PREGNANT WOMEN & NURSING MOTHERS:

Pregnant women and nursing mother are eligible for supplementary nutrition. In the case of pregnant women, supplementary nutrition is admissible now from the day the pregnancy is discovered upto the date of delivery. The nursing mother is eligible for supplementary nutrition for the first six months of lactation. However, all pregnant women and nursing mothers are not eligible for this facility. The women belonging to the following categories are eligible for this service:-

 - i) Those belonging to families to landless agricultural laborers and marginal farmers (those holding land not exceeding one hectare);
 - ii) Those belonging to schedule castes and scheduled tribes;
 - iii) Those belonging to families which are targeted under the IRDP;

- iv) Those belonging to families having a total monthly income not exceeding Rs. 500/- per month;
 - v) The pregnant women or nursing mother, who is enlisted by the AWW/AWH/ANM or the medical officer on medical grounds.
- b) CHILDREN IN THE AGE GROUP
- i) Children whose weight falls below the third curve on the growth charts;
 - ii) In case such weight falls below the third curve on the growth charts, child is identified as severely mal-nourished and is eligible for double ration for supplementary nutrition;
 - iii) Children whose weight falls below the fourth curve on the growth charts are to be advised immediate hospitalization for nutritional therapy and rehabilitation. Supplementary Nutrition is to continue to such children after their discharge from the hospital;
 - iv) Even those children whose weight falls above the fourth curve may have to be hospitalized if so advised by the medical authorities. After discharge from hospital, such children also are to be continued on supplementary nutrition;
 - v) All children attending the Anganwadi for non-formal-pre-school education (generally in the age group 3-6 years should be given supplementary nutrition irrespective of their nutritional status;
 - vi) Children belonging to families identified as IRDP target families under the IRDP should be enlisted for supplementary nutrition. Special efforts should be made to provide them nutritional services;
 - vii) At the time of distribution of Supplementary Nutrition at the Anganwadi, there may be some children who are not identified for supplementary nutrition on account of their nutritional status or non-participation in the non-formal-pre-school education. It is difficult to deny them feeding when they are physically present and hence they should also be provided with supplementary nutrition. Efforts should, however, be made to educate the community about supplementary nutrition for those children only as are identified as per criteria indicated above.
- c) The existing instructions stipulate that the feeding of the severely mal-nourished children should be arranged at least thrice a day by making personal contacts with the mothers of these children and by fixing proper timings for the Anganwadi feeding twice a day. The third feed can be given for consumption at home.
- d) In areas with sparse and Scattered population, where the severely mal-nourished children cannot be brought to an Anganwadi every day, therapeutic food can be given to mothers at weekly or fortnightly intervals with clear instructions on the food to be given to the child and method of using the food.

3. The instructions quoted above cover a large number of women and child beneficiaries. Still, an Anganwadi worker may have doubts the eligibility of the children coming to Anganwadis for supplementary nutrition.

As a measure of clarification, the following instructions are issued in this regard.

- All the children in the age group 0-6 years in an Anganwadi area do not come to the Anganwadi for supplementary nutrition. The number coming for supplementary nutrition is generally 40% or even less of the total number. The cultural ethos of our country is such that families, which can afford their own nutritional needs do not like to send their children to the Anganwadis for supplementary nutritional. However, it is the children of very poor and deprived families who come to the Anganwadi for supplementary nutrition. The denial of supplementary nutrition to such children, therefore, is not; justifiable on any count. While this may not be happening actually the intention of this Ministry is to provide safe guards against such denial of supplementary nutrition to any child in the age group 6 months to 6 year belonging to poor and deprived families and coming to the anganwadi. It is, therefore, clarified that all children in the age group 6 month to 6 year approaching an Anganwadi for supplementary nutrition must be provided such service. In other words, apart from pregnant women and nursing mothers eligible for supplementary nutrition in terms of paragraphs 2 (a) above, all children in the age group 6 month to 6 year hailing from families living below the poverty line should be provided supplementary nutrition at the Anganwadis. Under no circumstances should adoption of any norms other than the standard of poverty as defined in the context of poverty line expressed through income levels, from time to time, by the Planning Commission be resorted to for providing supplementary nutrition and such children having from household living below the poverty line coming to the Anganwadis should not be denial supplementary nutrition at any time/ on any ground.
4. The adoption of the criteria indicated in the preceding paragraph reiterates the practices actually in vogue in the Anganwadi and also would exclude any possibility of doubts in the part of the Anganwadi worker in providing supplementary nutrition to children.
 5. It will be appreciated if suitable instructions in the above lines are issued immediately to all concerned, under intimation to this Department.
 6. The receipt of this letter may please be acknowledged.

Yours Faithfully,

Sd/-
(Sanjay Kaul)
Deputy
Secretary.