

F.No 1-6/2012-CD.II(Pt.)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Women & Child Development

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi  
Dated:26<sup>th</sup> September, 2014

To,

1. The Chief Secretaries of all States and Administrators of UTs.
2. The Secretaries of all States/UTs, Women and Child Development Department/Social Welfare Department (dealing with ICDS Scheme)
3. All Directors (ICDS) of all States/UTs

**Subject:- Strict Implementation of the feeding norms, prescribed by Government of India, while providing THR under ICDS Scheme.**

The Government of India, vide Circular No. 5-9/2005/ND/Tech(Vol.II) dated 24.2.2009 had issued "Revised Nutritional and Feeding Norms for Supplementary Nutrition in ICDS", wherein para 8 stresses on the need to ensure quality of supplementary nutrition being provided with reference to the norms of Food Safety as well as nutrient composition. Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, in its Order dated 22.4.2009, endorsed the aforesaid guidelines and directed all the States/UTs that norms indicated in the said letter dated 24.02.2009 have to be implemented forthwith and respective States /UTs would make requisite financial allocation and undertake necessary arrangements to comply with the stipulation contained in the said letter.

2. Hon'ble Supreme Court of India while delivering judgments in Shagun Mahila Udyogik Sahakari Santha Maryadit Vs. State of Maharashtra (2011) 9 SSC 340 held that "the supplier is required to provide fine mix of all kinds of ingredients including the revised intake of proteins and calories to the precise level. In fact, the level of precision is earmarked for each kind of food. The concept behind the same cannot be permitted to be demonized by referring to it as food prepared by "automated machines". The procedure adopted is necessary to ensure that there is "zero infection" in the food which is going to be consumed by infants and the children who are already under nourished. It cannot be over emphasized that, since the beneficiary of the Dense Energy Food and Fortified



Blended Mixture are infants from the age group of 6 months to 3 years and pregnant and lactating mothers, it was all the more desirable to have fully automated plant. Such procedures avoid the use of human hands in processes like – handling, cleaning, grinding, extrusion, mixing, etc., all of which are done automatically.

3. Further, vide letter No. 5(25)/2010-ND-Tech. dated 15.03.2012, it was communicated that Safety Standards are followed while providing SNP and that it is necessary to take adequate precaution and ensure that any food supplied through the ICDS system is safe and nutritious. It was also emphasized that it is necessary to be vigilant and anyone violating Food Safety and Standards are booked and taken to task promptly.
4. The need for procurement of supplementary nutrition food in accordance with the guidelines of Government of India and in the light of judgment of Apex Court in Shagun Mahila case was again emphasized vide letter No. 13-1/2008-CP(Part-III) dated 09.05.2012 and all the Secretaries / Incharge of ICDS were clarified that “bonafide manufacturer, who fulfills the norms and standard laid down in the policy of Government of India dated 24.02.2009 and direction issued by Hon’ble Supreme Court on 19.08.2011 can also be considered for the supply of micronutrient fortified food. Reiterating the Supreme Court Orders on this issue, it is advisable that the State Governments / Union Territories should get the nutritious food prepared / manufactured by only competent and capable groups or entities, who comply with the stipulations as laid down under the Revised Norms, irrespective of whether these are Self Help Groups, Mahila Mandals, Village Community or a manufacturer and strictly adhered to. Keeping in view of this clarification, all the States/UTs are requested to strictly comply with the GOI Orders 24.02.2009 endorsed by the Apex Court in their order dated 22.4.2009 and circulated to all States/UTs vide Ministry’s letter No. 13-1/2008-CD.I dated 12<sup>th</sup> May 2009”.



5. All the State Governments were again requested vide DO No. 5(25)/2010/ND-Tech dated 26.07.2013 that Hon'ble Supreme Court too has observed that it is necessary to ensure that there is "zero infection in the food" and accordingly, considering the recent tragedy, due importance and priority needs to be accorded to food safety measures and reinvigorating inspection, lab testing, monitoring of hygiene, proper storage, quality of supply of food grains / items and due precaution for proper container, labelling and segregation of food items with any other article etc.

6 The Government of India, Ministry of Women and Child Development has also issued **Operational Guidelines for Food Safety and Hygiene in ICDS** vide its letter No.F.No 5(25)/2010/ND-Tech Pt. dated 24.12.2013 wherein it was prescribed that due to need for further steps to improve and emphasis on basic cleanliness, hygiene and food handling standards in ICDS, a detailed Operational Guidelines for Food Safety and Hygiene in ICDS was developed and sent to all States/UTs to follow meticulously. The Guidelines outlined precautionary measures and easy to follow simple protocols for food handling at different stages for both Take Home Ration (THR), Hot Cooked Meal (HCM) and morning snacks. It was hoped by Government of India that these guidelines will help States / UTs to follow standards and procedures in delivering safe environment and quality food to children, pregnant and lactating mothers.

7. However, during the course of visit to various States for examining the implementation of the feeding norms prescribed by Government of India and endorsed by Apex Court, it was observed that despite having specific guidelines for providing supplementary nutrition food duly endorsed by Apex Court and Operational Guidelines for Food Safety and Hygiene in ICDS, some of the States are not adhering to the guidelines on nutritious norms under ICDS scheme which defeats the very purpose of the Scheme.

8. In view of above, it has been decided that the States shall be required to furnish a certificate to the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India certifying that the



Supplementary Nutrition Food under the ICDS Scheme being implemented by the State has been provided in strict compliance to the guidelines issued by Ministry of Women & Child Development on 24.2.2009, operational guidelines of Food Safety and Hygiene in ICDS issued on 24.12.2013 and the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the Shagun Mahila Case. This certificate shall be required to be furnished along with the utilization certificate and shall be signed by an officer not below the rank of Secretary to the State Government. The Ministry of Women and Child Development will release the funds to State Governments under the ICDS Scheme subject to furnishing these certificates.

Yours sincerely,

*Sarada Ali Khan*

(Sarada Ali Khan)  
Joint Secretary

Copy forwarded for favour of information to:

1. PS to Minister -WCD
2. PS to Secretary, WCD
3. Food & Nutrition Board.