

केश श्रीवास्तव
सचिव
Kesh Srivastava
Secretary

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भारत सरकार
महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय
शास्त्री भवन, नई दिल्ली - 110001

Government of India
Ministry of Women & Child Development
Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001
Website : <http://www.wcd.nic.in>

3/CP/2019
14.7.17

D.O. No. 25/16/2015-Nutrition Desk

10th July, 2017

Dear Chief Secretary,

As you are aware, improving the nutritional status of the population is imperative for National development. Under-nutrition in young children continues to be a major public health problem in India. The latest NFHS-4 survey has not shown an encouraging improvement in the nutritional status, especially among women and children. While the level of underweight has decreased by 6.8% and stunting by 9.6% and anaemia by 11%, the level of wasting has increased from 19.8% to 21% as compared to NFHS-3 figures.

2. Further, the situation is compounded by the prevalence of micronutrient deficiencies in the country. According to National Survey data, about 70% preschool children suffer from iron deficiency anaemia and 57% preschool children have sub-clinical Vitamin A deficiency. Iodine deficiency is endemic in 85 percent of districts. Moreover, Neural Tube Defects (NTDs) are the most common congenital malformation in the Indian context with an incidence that varies between 0.5-8/1000 births. It is estimated that 50-70% of these birth defects are preventable.

3. Considering this situation, a joint initiative was taken by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Ministry of Health and Family welfare to address the issue by fortification of food items. Following this, the standards for fortification of foods namely "Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Foods) Regulations, 2016 were operationalized by FSSAI (copy enclosed).

4. After Multi-Stakeholder Consultations, in-depth examination and detailed deliberations, it was decided that initially three food items, viz., Double Fortified Salt (Iodine and Iron), Wheat Flour (Iron, Folic acid & Vitamin-B12) and Edible Oil (Vitamin-A and D) should be considered for mandatory fortification through the public funded programmes, i.e., ICDS, MDM and PDS. Further, it has also been decided that for mandatory fortification of edible oil, Vitamin-D2 should be proposed since it is sourced from plants.

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5. In view of the above, the States/UTs are advised to ensure mandatory fortification of the relevant food articles used in the administration of Supplementary Nutrition Programme of the ICDS Scheme with immediate effect.

6. States/UTs are advised to draw up a detailed action plan for implementation of the decision on mandatory fortification of above food articles and ensure to send detailed action taken reports on the same to the Ministry from time to time.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(Rakesh Srivastava)

Chief Secretaries of all States / UTs.

Copy to :

Principal Secretaries / Secretaries in-charge of ICDS of all States / UTs.

Copy for information to:

1. Principal Secretary to Hon'ble Prime Minister
2. Secretary, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
3. Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family welfare
4. Secretary, Department of Elementary Education, MHRD
5. Chairperson, FSSAI



(Rakesh Srivastava)