

F. No 13/5/2020-CD-II
Government of India
Ministry of Women and Child Development

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated: March 30, 2020

To

The Principal Secretaries/Secretaries dealing with Anganwadi Services in all States/UTs

Sir/ Madam,

With reference to Ministry of Home Affairs order No. 40-3/2020/D dated 24.03.2020 for containment of COVID-19 epidemic in the country and for ensuring continuous nutritional support for the beneficiaries under Anganwadi Services, the following instructions are issued to the States and UTs.

(i) Instructions issued vide No.CD-II-13/5/2020-CD-II dated March 23, 2020 may please be referred to.

(ii) As per the National Food Security Act, 2013 provision of nutrition to the beneficiaries of Anganwadi Services scheme is a legal entitlement. Sections 4, 5 and 6 of the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 mandates Supplementary Nutrition be provided to every Pregnant Women and Lactating Mother till 6 months after child birth, and every child in the age group of 6 months to 6 years (including those suffering from malnutrition).

(iii) Section 8 of the National Food Security Act, 2013 provides that in case of non-supply of the entitled quantities of food grains or meals to entitled persons, such persons shall be entitled to receive such food security allowance from the concerned State Government to be paid to each person, within such time & manner as may be prescribed by the Central Government.

(iv) Rule 8 of the Supplementary Rules, 2017, provides that if in case of non-supply of meal to the beneficiaries in Anganwadi Centre on any day due to non-availability of food grains or any other reason, the State Governments or Union Territory Administrations shall pay food security allowance as defined in clause (d) of rule 2 to every beneficiary referred to in rule 3 as per rates specified in rule-11.

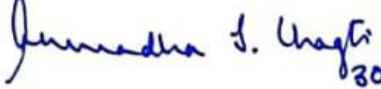
(iv) It is observed that in many States/ UTs , in the light of Ministry of Home Affairs order mentioned above, the Anganwadi Centres are closed and States/ UTs have taken steps to provide Supplementary Nutrition to the beneficiaries at their door steps. Accordingly, necessary instructions may be given to the district authorities to utilize services of Anganwadi Workers/ Helpers for such delivery of food items for continuous nutritional support. During this time, suitable measures suggested by health authorities such as avoidance of social contact, usage of sanitizer, wearing of protection gear etc. by the Anganwadi Workers/ Anganwadi Helpers during distribution may be ensured.



(v) States/ UTs that have decided to provide the Supplementary Nutrition at the doorstep of beneficiaries may provide entitlement as per norms, as a single instalment to the extent possible, to avoid repeated contact. The evidence of distribution of Supplementary Nutrition at the doorstep such as photographs, acknowledgement receipts shall be maintained.

(vi) States/UTs are also advised to comply with the Operational Guidelines for Food Safety and Hygiene in ICDS circulated vide this Ministry's Letter number F. No. 5(25)/2010/ND-Tech Pt. dated 24.12.2013 of this Ministry during such distribution at the doorsteps of the beneficiaries .

Yours faithfully,


(Anuradha S. Chagti)
Joint Secretary (ICDS)

Copy to:

PPS to Secretary (WCD)

Sr. PPS to SS(AT)