

परिशिष्ट संक

**URGENT
IMPORTANT**

F.No. 14-1/2004-CD I (Vol.II)

Government of India
Ministry of Women & Child Development

Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
Dated the 13 April, 2007

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1. The Secretaries in-charge of ICDS Scheme in all States/UTs
2. Directors (ICDS) in all States/UTs

Subject: Third phase of expansion of ICDS Scheme - assessment of the requirement of additional Projects and Anganwadi Centres.

Sir/Madam,

As you are aware, in a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) bearing number CWP 196/2001 - People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) Vs Uoi & others, the Hon'ble Supreme Court, vide its order dated 29.4.2004 had, inter-alia, directed the Union of India to indicate the timeframe within which the Scheme would be expanded so as to cover 14 lakh habitations/settlements in the country. The National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the Government also envisages universalization of the ICDS Scheme to provide a functional Anganwadi in every settlement, and ensure full coverage of all children.

2. In compliance of the Supreme Court's order and to implement the NCMP, an Inter-Ministerial Task Force (IMTF) was constituted on 13th September, 2004 to review the population norms and suggest revised norms for setting of a Project and an Anganwadi Centre under the ICDS Scheme. The norms recommended by the Inter-Ministerial Task Force vide its report of 15th June, 2005, were shared with all the States vide Ministry's letter No. 14-8/2005-CD-I dated 12th July, 2005. Based on the revised population norms, the States were requested to indicate their requirement of Additional Projects/Anganwadi Centres for the 2nd phase of expansion of ICDS Scheme. As per the requirements so received, 166 Projects, 106726 AWCs and 25943 Mini Anganwadis have been sanctioned to States/UTs during 2006-07.

3. Further to this, as has already been brought to your notice through e-mail (serg...@smg.nic.in), the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 13.12.2006, has directed the Union of India to sanction and operationalise a minimum of 14 lakh AWCs in a phased and even manner, starting forthwith and ending December, 2008. In doing so the Central Government is required to identify SC and ST, habitations for setting up AWCs on priority basis. Initiating the exercise for the third phase of the expansion of the ICDS Scheme, the Ministry shared with the States/UTs, vide d.o. letter No. 14-1/2004-CD-I (Vol.II) dated 10th January, 2007, the data on total number of habitations in the country with SC population of 40% or more as available from the Ministry of

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18/4/07
D.D. (ICDS)
12/4/07



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Social Justice and Empowerment, (as per census 2001). All India Educational Survey (2003) carried out by the Department of School Education and Literacy and the National Habitation Survey (2003) conducted by Department of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development, for facilitating preparation of a list of uncovered habitations along with population which would require additional AWCs and Mini - Anganwadi Centres while ensuring that no habitation/settlement with predominantly SC/ST/Minority Population is left out.

4. Since the revised population norms too were found to be inadequate to comply with the directions of the Supreme Court and to honor the commitment enunciated in NCMP, it was decided to revisit the population norms recommended by IMTF in June 2005. The IMTF, accordingly, deliberated on this issue at length and has recommended the following norms:

General:

Projects: The Committee reiterated the earlier recommendation that:

- (i) Community Development Block in a State should be the unit for sanction of an ICDS Project in rural/tribal areas, irrespective of number of villages/population in it.
- (ii) The existing norm of 1 lakh population for sanction of urban project may continue.

The Task Force has recommended that for blocks with more than two lac. population, States could opt for more than one Project (@ one per one lac population) or could opt for one project only with suitable strengthening of the Project Office.

Anganwadi Centres

For Rural/Urban Projects

400-800	1 AWC
800-1600	2 AWCs
1600-2400	3 AWCs
Thereafter in multiples of 800	1 AWC

For Mini AWC

150-400	1 Mini-AWC
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For Tribal /Riverine/Desert, Hilly and other difficult areas/ Projects

300-800	1 AWC
Mini - AWC	
150-300	1 Mini AWC

5. The States are now requested to undertake a micro level survey having regard to predominantly SC/ST/Minority habitations in the context of the revised population norms as given above and furnish specific requirement of additional Projects, Anganwadi Centres and Mini Anganwadi Centres in the Performa at Annex I, for the third phase of expansion of the ICDS Scheme.

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6. States who have already sent their requirements of Anganwadi Centres (AWCs/Mini-AWCs) for the 3rd phase of expansion, may resubmit their proposals after taking into account the afore-mentioned population norms recommended by the IMTF.

7. The requisite information may be furnished by 15th May, 2007 to enable the Government to formulate its proposal for the next phase of expansion of the ICDS Scheme. The information may be given in a soft copy (CD) also along with a hard copy.

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Yours faithfully,

(Chaman Kumar)
Joint Secretary to the Government of India
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