

अनिल स्वरूप
सचिव
Anil Swarup
Secretary

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भारत सरकार
Government of India
मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय
Ministry of Human Resource Development
स्कूल शिक्षा और साक्षरता विभाग
Department of School Education & Literacy
124 'सी' विंग, शास्त्री भवन, नई दिल्ली-110 001
124 'C' Wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110 001

2nd August, 2017

As you are aware deficiency of micronutrients affects the health and development of children. The main contributor to health problems is iron deficiency which can reduce children's cognitive ability. Children in India are found to be deficient in Iron as well as Iodine which may cause anaemia and goitre. A child suffering from micronutrient deficiencies finds it difficult to concentrate and work on a sustainable basis.

2. The problem of anaemia can be addressed by promoting consumption of iron rich foods and iron supplements. One of the easiest and cost effective method of increasing iron intake is by way of fortification of salt with iron and iodine. Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and public Distribution and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have already taken a joint initiative to address the issue by fortification of food items. Following this, the standards of food fortification namely "Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of foods) Regulation 2016" were operationalized by Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). After consulting various stakeholders, in-depth examination was done and it was decided by Govt of India that initially three food articles i.e. Double fortified salt (Iron and Iodine), wheat flour (Iron, Folic acid and Vitamin B-12) and edible oil (Vitamin-A&D) should be considered for mandatory fortification through Mid-Day Meal Scheme along with ICDS and PDS.

3. In the aforementioned context, it is reiterated that MDM Guidelines, 2006 and Food Safety Guidelines for school level kitchens under MDM in 2015 provide that only DFS should be used for cooking mid-day meal.

4. You are, therefore, advised to take suitable steps to ensure mandatory fortification of the aforesaid food articles used in Mid-Day Meal Scheme with immediate effect. In addition you may encourage the use of green leafy vegetables like Spinach, drumsticks, and other locally available and culturally acceptable iron-rich vegetables in your respective State/UTs under MDMS.

5. I shall appreciate if you could kindly provide information on the current position as well as the action taken to promote the mandatory use of DFS, fortified wheat flour if used in Mid-Day Meal and fortified edible oil.

Yours sincerely,
Sd/-
(Anil Swarup)

To

Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs

Copy for information to:

1. Shri Nripendra Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, South Block, New Delhi.
2. Shri Avinash K Srivastava, Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Krishi Bhawan, ND
3. Smt. Preeti Sudan, Secretary, Department of Food and Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Krishi Bhawan, ND
4. Shri C.K. Mishra, Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Nirman Bhawan, ND
5. Shri Rakesh Srivastava, Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
6. Shri Ashish Bahuguna, Chairperson, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, ND-02

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