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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY
SHASTRI BHAVAN
NEW DELHI-110 115

D.O. No.5-5/2011-MDM-1-1 (EE.5)

New Delhi, 1st July 2011

Dear Colleague

As you may be aware almost 50 % of males and 70% of the females in our country suffer from anaemia. While anaemia is responsible for 50% of all maternal deaths; malnutrition of all kinds accounts for 54% of all deaths of children. Apart from high mortality, a child suffering from malnutrition suffers from low level of energy; finds it difficult to concentrate and s/he is incapable of work on a sustained basis. Such children are also prone to infections, which again increase the overall level of malnutrition

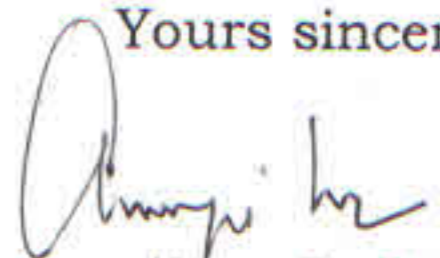
Anaemia can be prevented and addressed by promoting consumption of iron rich foods and iron supplements. One cost effective way of increasing the intake of iron is fortification of salt with iron in addition to iodine. Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has prescribed the legal standards for double fortified salt (DFS).

2. In a recent meeting chaired by the Principal Secretary to Prime Minister to discuss promotion of consumption of iron fortified iodised salt, it was suggested that Government should actively promote the consumption and production of DFS through an effective communication campaign, as well as mandating its use in Government sponsored food and nutrition programmes like ICDS, Mid-day-Meals.
3. In this connection it is reiterated that para 4.5 of the Mid-Day-Meal Guidelines issued by this Department stipulates that only iodised/double fortified salt should be used for cooking. The State Government/UT Administrations are also expected to issue detailed guidelines in this regard. During the visits made by officers Government of India to see the implementation of Mid-Day-Meals Scheme in the States and UTs, the use of double fortified salt is also emphasized so that the children are benefited from consumption of iodine and iron as both are required for proper physical and mental growth.
4. We do hope that in view of the dire need as brought out in para 1 and the guidelines in this regard only double fortified salt (DFS) is used in the MDMS. We shall appreciate if you could confirm use of DFS in MDMS in your state/UT. All necessary action may also be taken for its sustained use. In addition we should use green leafy vegetables like drumsticks, radish and cabbage leaves for MDMS.

The current position as well the action taken to promote use of DFS and green leafy vegetables may please be intimated to us.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,


(Amarjit Singh)



Secretaries of State Governments/UTs
(As per list attached)