

**DR. N. C. SAXENA, COMMISSIONER AND
HARSH MANDER, SPECIAL COMMISSIONER OF THE SUPREME COURT
IN THE CASE: PUCL v. UOI & Ors. WRIT PETITION (Civil) No. 196 of 2001**

29th October 2010
NRC.IDP/934/Andra

Shri S V Prasad,
Chief Secretary,
Government of Andhra Pradesh,
Secretariat,
Hyderabad.

Sub: Denial of providing Nutrition and Rehabilitation Centre services to Internally Displaced Person (IDPs) children

Dear Shri Prasad,

As you are aware, in our capacity as Commissioners of the Supreme Court in CWP 196/2001, PUCL v. UOI and others, we monitor the implementation of the food and employment related schemes in the country which fall under the purview of the case including the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS).

We were deeply distressed to chance upon the Government Order issued by the Project Officer, Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA), Bhadrachalam to Deputy Director, Medical and Health Office, ITDA which stated, inter-alia, '*not to enroll non-tribes and non BPL patients in the Nutrition and Rehabilitation Center (NRC), ITDA, Bhadrachalam*'.

As you are aware the H'ble Supreme Court has repeatedly directed that "all services of the ICDS" should be universal and not restricted to BPL families only. The order of October 7th, 2004 clearly states, inter-alia, that

"...The scheme intends to cover all the children under the age group of 0-6 years..."

and

"...BPL shall not be used as an eligibility criteria for ICDS..."

We are attaching a copy of the order of the H'ble Supreme Court in this regard.

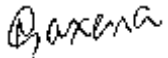
We have also learnt from media reports in AP (Eenadu and Andhra Jyothi) about the refusal of the Nutrition and Rehabilitation Centre (NRC) services to children of Internally Displaced

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Persons (IDPs) from Chhattisgarh in Bhadrachalam division. This is completely unacceptable and a violation of not just legal entitlements enshrined in the various order of the Supreme Court but also of the fundamental rights of these children. Children suffering from Severe Acute malnutrition are referred to NRCs for appropriate treatment. Since IDPs face multiple deprivations, children of IDPs are more likely to be malnourished and vulnerable.

We would like to request you to look into the matter and take urgent action on it. We appreciate to get your action taken report on the above matter in next 4 weeks, which cover all the food and employment entitlements of the IDPs including ICDS, MDMS, NREGA, TPDS (including AAY), NMBS/ JSY, NSAP (including widow, disability and old age pensions) and NFBS.

With regards,



Dr. N.C. Saxena



Harsh Mander

P.s.: A scanned photocopy of the note issued by PO, ITDA is enclosed.

Copy to: Adviser to the Commissioner to the Supreme Court, Andhra Pradesh.