



जगत प्रकाश नड्डा
Jagat Prakash Nadda



स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्री
भारत सरकार
Minister of Health & Family Welfare
Government of India

D.O.No.Z.28020/139/2013-CH
(FTS:50056)

18 August, 2017

Dear Dr. Arun Gupta Ji,

At the outset, I compliment NAPI for their concern on the issue of malnutrition among children, which is an extremely important determinant of the health of our children. The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare follows a comprehensive nutrition approach for the management of children with SAM.

As regards the specific issue of RUTF raised in your letter, I would like to inform that the Government of India had constituted the SAM alliance consisting of Department of Biotechnology, Indian Council of Medical Research and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare to examine the effectiveness of RUTF for SAM management. Taking cognizance of the findings emerging from research under this inter-ministerial SAM alliance study, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare considers that management of children with SAM requires a comprehensive family centric approach involving the caregivers instead of a food centric approach. Hand-holding of families with SAM children to follow optimum child care practices along with adequate practice of hygiene and sanitation is required for long term sustainable benefit to the nutrition status of the children. The Ready-to-use-Therapeutic Food (RUTF) or home augmented food for children with SAM is temporarily helpful in nutritional rehabilitation under proper supervision and support. However, RUTF may not benefit a common household in developing appropriate food habits for children as against home augmented food. Nutritional counseling and support is vital in bringing positive change in the knowledge, attitudes and practices of child feeding and care. The above findings have also been shared with the nodal ministry in charge of nutrition, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, who are required to take a view in the matter.

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348, ए-स्कंध, निर्माण भवन, नई दिल्ली-110011
348, A-Wing, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi-110011
Tele: (O) : +91-11-23061661, 23063513, Telefax : 23062358, 23061648
Email: hfwminister@gov.in

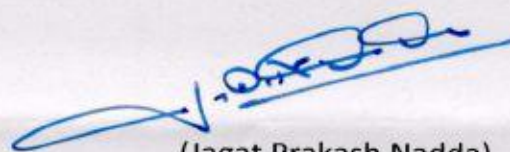
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I would also like to inform that my Ministry is working on developing guidelines and a toolkit for early childhood development that will help the frontline workers to reach out to parents and orient them on their role in ensuring early childhood development. Nutrition counseling and feeding practices are an important part of these guidelines.

I hope that this response clarifies the stand of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,



(Jagat Prakash Nadda)

Dr. Arun Gupta
Central Coordinator BPNI
Nutrition Advocacy in Public Interest – NAPI
NAPI Secretariat
BP-33, Pitampura
Delhi – 110 034