

# NUTRITION ADVOCACY IN PUBLIC INTEREST-India (NAPi)

April 17, 2018

To,

**Dr Rajiv Kumar,  
VC NITI AAYOG  
Chairperson, National Nutrition Council, Government of India  
New Delhi.**

## CHAIR

Sh. Keshav Desiraju  
Former Secretary, Health, GOI

## MEMBERS

Prof. HPS Sachdev  
Senior Pediatrician &  
Epidemiologist

Dr. Vandana Prasad  
Community Pediatrician  
Mobile: 9891552425

Dr. Arun Gupta  
Child Health & Nutrition  
Advocate  
Mobile: 9899676306

Prof. KP Kushwaha  
Pediatrician & Former  
Principal, BRD Medical  
College Gorakhpur

Prof. Umesh Kapil  
Professor, Public Health  
Nutrition, AIIMS

Dr Prasanta Tripathy  
Ekjut Jharkhand. Member

Dr. J.P. Dadhich  
Child Health & Nutrition  
Advocate

Dr. Shoba Suri  
Nutritionist

Ms. Nupur Bidla  
Social Worker

## ADDRESS

NAPi  
BP-33, PITAMPURA,  
DELHI-110034

[napiindia.in@gmail.com](mailto:napiindia.in@gmail.com)  
[www.napiindia.in](http://www.napiindia.in)

**Sub:** Concerns regarding introduction of processed and packaged foods for children and women in ICDS

**Dear Sir,**

This is understood from the available news (Hindu Business Line <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/maneka-gandhi-women-and-child-development-ministry-at-loggerheads-over-nutrient-packets/article23504460.ece>) that there is a plan to convert all take home rations given by anganwadi centres to children in the age group of 6 months to 3 years and pregnant and lactating women, with “energy-dense, factory-made” nutrient packets.

We as a public interest nutrition think tank, would like to oppose this move. This is mainly because two reasons. One, it has a bearing on the NCDs impacting negatively the health of millions of people in coming years. Such evidence is mounting that these processed foods contribute to NCDs. And secondly it does not benefit India’s children or women but only benefits the commercial food manufacturers. It does not in any way help create variety/diversity of foods, which our children are in need as the NFHS4 clearly reveals that less than 10% kids of 6-23 months receive *minimum acceptable diet*.

We believe and it is supported by evidence that successful strategies to combat all forms of malnutrition; undernutrition and over nutrition, require supporting local food systems, improving livelihoods and access to healthy foods. This was emphasised at a recent International conference on double burden of malnutrition.

This issue has repeatedly been coming up. During the previous government of UPA it was settled finally through a Cabinet decision. We also understand from the Minutes of the meeting held at PMO on 04-11-2017 making clear reference to it... “...*The Practice of hot cooked meals for 3-6 years age group and Take Home Rations (THR) for 6-month to 3-Years and pregnant and lactating women would continue as prescribed under the existing scheme of ICDS and as mandated by the NFSA,2013....*”

We fail to understand what has changed since then and now.

# NUTRITION ADVOCACY IN PUBLIC INTEREST-India (NAPi)

Therefore, we request you to discuss this policy matter in the upcoming meeting of the National Nutrition Council that you chair and reject the proposal for commercial packaged/processed foods and pave way for children receiving variety of at least 4 foods during the 6-23 months to ensure they get *minimum acceptable diet*.

A line of response would be highly appreciated.

With regards,

NAPi.

## CHAIR

Sh. Keshav Desiraju  
Former Secretary, Health, GOI

## MEMBERS

Prof. HPS Sachdev  
Senior Pediatrician &  
Epidemiologist

Dr. Vandana Prasad  
Community Pediatrician  
Mobile: 9891552425

Dr. Arun Gupta  
Child Health & Nutrition  
Advocate  
Mobile: 9899676306

Prof. KP Kushwaha  
Pediatrician & Former  
Principal, BRD Medical  
College Gorakhpur

Prof. Umesh Kapil  
Professor, Public Health  
Nutrition, AIIMS

Dr Prasanta Tripathy  
Ekjut Jharkhand. Member

Dr. J.P. Dadhich  
Child Health & Nutrition  
Advocate

Dr. Shoba Suri  
Nutritionist

Ms. Nupur Bidla  
Social Worker

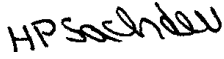
## ADDRESS

NAPi  
BP-33, PITAMPURA,  
DELHI-110034

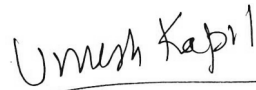
[napiindia.in@gmail.com](mailto:napiindia.in@gmail.com)  
[www.napiindia.in](http://www.napiindia.in)



Sh. Keshav Desiraju



Prof. HPS Sachdev



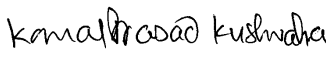
Prof. Umesh Kapil



Ms. Nupur Bidla



Dr. Arun Gupta



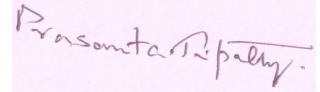
Prof. KP Kushwaha



Dr. J.P. Dadhich



Dr. Vandana Prasad



Dr. Prasanta Tripathy



Dr. Shoba Suri