

NUTRITION ADVOCACY IN PUBLIC INTEREST-India (NAPi)

Date: 10th August 2016

CHAIR

Sh. Keshav Desiraju
Former Secretary, Health, GOI

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Prof. KP Kushwaha
Pediatrician & Former
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College Gorakhpur

To

Smt. Raj Bala Verma
Chief Secretary
Government of Jharkhand
Project Bhawan, IFloor, Dhurwa,
Ranchi – 834 004

Madam,

We are a group of professionals and scientists engaged in national public health nutrition issues, who have come together as responsible members of civil society to draw attention to disturbing developments with respect to National and State policies related to the management of malnutrition. We understand that Jharkhand is in the process of formulating its strategies for combating acute malnutrition in the state. In this context, we are deeply concerned that product based solutions are being promoted as a simple and permanent cure for the proverbial tip of childhood undernutrition, namely severe wasting (thinness or severe acute malnutrition; SAM), which is being portrayed as a medical emergency.

Please find attached a note "Sustainable Developmental Solutions or Product-based Illusions for Addressing Severe Acute Malnutrition?" that describes with scientific references our concerns in detail.

We would request you to give due consideration in policy making and take appropriate action.

We would appreciate a line of response in acknowledgement, and any action taken at your end.

With our best regards,



Dr Arun Gupta
On behalf of the NAPi
CC

1. *Shri Mukhmeet Singh Bhatia, Principal Secretary, Department of Women & Child Development and Social Security, Government of Jharkhand*
2. *Shri K. Vidyasagar, Addl. Chief Secretary (Health), Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Jharkhand*
3. *Smt Mirdula Sinha, IAS, Director General, Jharkhand State Nutrition Mission, Government of Jharkhand*
4. *Dr. Amitabh Kaushal, IAS, Mission Director (NHM), Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Jharkhand*

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