To

All Collectors.


Madam/Sir,

Anaemia is a major health problem in Odisha that impacts the cognitive and motor development in children, productivity in adults and also the body's immune system. The prevalence of anaemia is alarming and stands at more than 70% across all age groups. According to AHS-CAB, 2014, more than 81.2% children in the age group of 5 to 9 years and more than 74% adolescents in the age group of 10 to 17 years in Odisha are anemic. To combat nutritional anaemia, the Government of India is implementing the National Iron Plus Initiative (NIPI) Programme in all States. Under this programme, the Health Deptt. is supplying IFA and Albendazole tablets for weekly (Each Monday) and six monthly (February and August) consumption respectively in all the Government and Government aided schools for students from class-I to X after Mid Day Meal.

The State Nodal Officer, MDM has already communicated guideline in this regard to all the officials of education Deptt. vide letter No. 410, dated 9.4.2014. Capacity building of all DEOs, BEOs, ABEOs(MDM), CRCCs and also sensitization of all teachers has been completed. All the schools have also been provided with two posters on anaemia to sensitize the PTAs, SMC members and the community.

School and Mass Education Department is responsible for distribution/administration of IFA and Albendazole tablets, timely reporting and use of these IEC materials at school points. Instructions in this regard have already been issued to all DEOs, DPCs and BEOs vide letter No. 3197/ Dt. 21.04.2014 from the Deptt. Thereafter many reminders/letters (letter No.498/Dt.05.05.2014, 552/Dt.20.05.14, 602/Dt.03.06.2014,1619/Dt.20.10.2014, 701/Dt.21.05.2015, 1649/19.10.2015) in this regard have been issued.

But in spite of all these, the programme is not running properly and needs continuous reviews at all levels to achieve its objectives. Following are some broad issues:

- Poor/No administration of IFA tablets to the students by the teachers in some districts.

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"Nutrition for Education"
Poor reporting by districts. Only 10 districts (Bhadrad, Boudh, Deogarh, Dhenkanal, Jharsuguda, Kandhamal, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Nabarangpur and Sundergarh) have submitted the reports (till September '16).

Use of posters to generate awareness among PTAs, SMC members and community.

So you are requested to view the matter seriously and take appropriate actions to streamline the programme.

This may be treated as most urgent and action taken at your end may be communicated.

Yours faithfully,

Commissioner-cum-Secretary

Memo No. 1403 /SPMU, Dt. 16-11-2016

Copy forwarded to the Director, Secondary Education/ the Director, Elementary Education for information and necessary action.

State Nodal Officer (MDM) & Ex-Officio Joint Secretary to Govt.

Memo No. 1404 /SPMU, Dt. 16-11-2016

Copy forwarded to the State Project Director, OPEPA for information and necessary action.

State Nodal Officer (MDM) & Ex-Officio Joint Secretary to Govt.

Memo No. 1405 /SPMU, Dt. 16-11-2016

Copy forwarded to All District Education Officers for information and necessary action.

State Nodal Officer (MDM) & Ex-Officio Joint Secretary to Govt.