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Secretary
Government of India
Ministry of Panchayati
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Nagendra Nath Sinha
Secretary
Government of India
Ministry of Rural
Development
Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi

Ram Mohan Mishra
Secretary
Government of India
Ministry of Women &
Child Development
Shastri Bhawan, New
Delhi

D.O.No.PA/19/2018-CPMU (59211)

31st August, 2020

Dear Chief Secretary

We are writing to you to seek your personal intervention and support to address malnutrition amongst Children, pregnant women and lactating mothers in the country. As you are aware, POSHAN Abhiyaan (PM's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment) launched in 2018, strives to reduce the level of stunting, under-nutrition, low birth weight in children and anaemia in adolescent girls, pregnant women, lactating mothers as well as children. Leveraging technology and *Jan Andolan* are two of the main components of the Scheme.

2. **Poshan Maah** is celebrated during the month of September, 2020 to further accelerate various activities under POSHAN Abhiyaan and to create a "Jan Aandolan" through *Jan Bhagidari*. However COVID-19 protocols will have to be adhered during the period.

3. This year it has been decided to adopt a two-pronged strategy to address malnutrition. Under-nutrition being one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in children under the age of 5 years, early identification and referral of severe acute malnutrition is important for initiation of treatment and minimizing the risk of complications. Therefore, one of the objectives of Poshan Maah this year is to carry out a **drive for identification and referral of Severe Acute Malnourished (SAM) children**.

4. Developing **Kitchen/Nutri-gardens** in the Anganwadi premises, on Panchayat/Community/land in the Village is the other goal, which is equally important. We request you to promote plantation of individual and community Nutri Gardens as per the advisory of Ministry of Rural Development vide its Letter Number L-13060/03/2020-RE-VII dt. 04.05.20, under The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), in convergence with State Schemes and NRLM.

5 **POSHAN Panchayats** may also be organized during Poshan Maah to encourage local engagement in identification, management and resolution of nutrition related issues locally. The Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Committees or its equivalent in your State, as well as those at the Gram Panchayat / Panchayat Samiti / Zila Parishad must meet and discuss the specific reasons for malnutrition of the children residing within their respective jurisdictions and facilitate necessary community/social support mechanism for improvement in their health. They may be encouraged to map the malnourished children, develop a strategy to bring them back to normalcy and implement it with the help of local Anganwadis and Community support. Further they may also deliberate upon the scope for more production of pulses and oil seeds for bringing these to the plates of poor families. These special meetings at the level of Gram Panchayat, Block Panchayat & Zilla Panchayat may be held weekly to appreciate the problem, review the activities and prepare effective strategies during POSHAN Maah. Members of Parliament and Legislative Assemblies may also be engaged for spreading the messages of adequate and appropriate nutrition amongst public.

6. We would therefore, request you to kindly issue instructions to the District Magistrates/District Collectors, the CDOs/CEOs/ADCs to ensure the conduct of above activities in all tiers of Panchayats. Your personal supervision of the POSHAN Maah activities in the State will certainly help in achieving the intended *Jan Bhagidari* in addressing the concerns related to malnutrition.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



(Sunil Kumar)
Secretary, MoPR

Yours sincerely,



(Nagendra Nath Sinha)
Secretary, MoRD

Yours sincerely,



(Ram Mohan Mishra)
Secretary, WCD

Chief Secretaries of States/UTs