

Women and Child Development Department

3.4 Special Nutrition Programme

Highlights

The Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) was launched to control protein calorie malnutrition in children below 6 years of age and expectant women and nursing mothers. Though the programme had been in operation since 1970-71, it suffered from a number of shortcomings in its implementation. Due to insufficient provision of funds and inadequate survey of beneficiaries, the percentage of coverage was 23 in Rural 16 in Urban and 28 in Tribal Project areas against the norm of 40 in rural and urban areas and 75 in tribal areas respectively. Supplementary Nutrition was required to be provided to the beneficiaries for a minimum of 300 days in a year, whereas it was not provided at all in 558 out of 19286 Anganwadis (AWs) and provided for less than 200 days in 4604 AWs during 2001-2002. The coverage of severely malnourished children was below seven per cent. The programme failed to achieve the objective of improving the health status of malnourished children, pregnant women and lactating mothers.

- Thirty two per cent of allotments remained unutilised .

(Paragraph 3.4.5[a])

- Against 23.45 lakh eligible children and mothers only 10.41 lakh could be covered.

(Paragraph 3.4.6 [c][i])

- 3 to 11 per cent Anganwadis did not distribute supplementary nutrition.

(Paragraph 3.4.7 [ii])

Rs.8.97 lakh short realised from suppliers affected Anganwadis in processing the food.

(Paragraph 3.4.8 [v])

Non-conversion of 30 Special Nutrition (feeding) Centres into Anganwadis resulted in avoidable expenditure of Rs.34.86 lakh.

(Paragraph 3.4.9 [i])

Of Rs.12 crore released during 2001-02 under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojna, Rs.7.73 crore remained unutilised.

(Paragraph 3.4.10 [i])

3.4.1 Introduction

The Special Nutrition Programme was launched by the Government of India (GOI) in 1970-71 with the object of providing supplementary nutrition to children below 6 years of age, expectant women and nursing mothers and was transferred to the State Sector under Minimum Needs Programme as Supplementary Nutrition Programme, a component of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) being run by Government of India.

The main objectives of Supplementary Nutrition Programme was to improve the nutritional and health status of beneficiaries by providing supplementary nutritional intake of 300 calories and 10 grams of protein for children between 6 months to 6 years of age and 600 calories and 20 grams of protein for severely malnourished children and expectant women and nursing mothers belonging to low income group families. The supplementary nutrition was to be provided for 300 days in a year.

These objectives were to be achieved through Anganwadis (AWs) for every 1000 population in rural and urban areas and between 300 to 700 population in tribal areas. The coverage of children under 6 years of age and all nursing and expectant mothers was expected to be 40 per cent, in rural and urban areas and 75 per cent in tribal areas.

3.4.2 Organisational set up

The Special Secretary cum Director of Women and Child Development Department (Director) was responsible for implementation, co-ordination and monitoring of the Programme at State level. At district level the District Programme Officer (DPO), District Women and Child Development Officer (DWCO) and at block level Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) were responsible for implementation and co-ordination of the Programme. The focal point of delivery of the services for providing supplementary nutrition was Anganwadi. By November 2000 there were 152 ongoing projects (20289 AWs) divided into 117 Co-operative for American Relief Everywhere (CARE) projects (15775 AWs) and 35 non-CARE projects (4514 AWs) under its jurisdiction. In addition 30 and 55 special nutrition feeding centres were functioning in Surguja and Rajnandgaon districts which remained to be merged with ICDS.

3.4.3 Audit coverage

Test-check of records for the period 1997-2002 was conducted during April to May 2002 in the offices of Director Raipur, DPOs in four districts viz. Durg, Jagdalpur, Raipur and Surguja covering 63 projects including 8427 AWs. The significant points noticed are mentioned in the succeeding paragraphs.

3.4.4 Implementation/Funding

(i) Implementation

Out of the total population of 34.70 lakh children below six years age and expectant women and 8.32 lakh nursing mothers as per Census 2001 the number of eligible beneficiaries worked out to 18.95 lakh children and expectant women and 4.50 lakh nursing mothers.

(ii) Funding

For the beneficiaries of 117 CARE projects nutritional food was supplied free of cost. The budget provision was to be made for these projects at the rate of Re.0.35 per beneficiary per day (Re.0.15 for transportation of CARE commodity and Re.0.20 for fuel and condiments) and for the beneficiaries of 35 non-CARE projects at the rate of Re.1 per beneficiary per day for supply of supplementary nutrition food by local arrangement. Accordingly, funds required for 23.45 lakh beneficiaries (17.02 lakh: CARE and 6.43 lakh: non-CARE) worked out to Rs.37.16 crore (Rs.17.81 crore for CARE beneficiaries and Rs.19.29 crore for non-CARE beneficiaries) for 300 days in a year.

3.4.5 Budget Outlay and Expenditure

(a) The details of budget allotment and expenditure were reported as follows:

Cumulative saving of Rs.20.76 crore due to improper planning

(Rupees in lakh)				
Year	Budget allotment	Expenditure	Saving(-)	Percentage
1997-98	1047.67	551.54	(-)496.13	47
1998-99	764.92	576.63	(-)188.29	25
1999-2000	740.12	596.32	(-)143.80	19
2000-01 ³²	441.99 (upto 10/2000)	218.57	(-)223.42	27
	924.55 (Nov. to March)	783.36	(-)141.19	
2001-02	2641.86	1758.27	(-)883.59	33
Total	6561.11	4484.69	(-)2076.42	32

The following observations were made:

(i) Against the requirement of Rs.37.16 crore State Government provided Rs.25.77 crore only (excluding administrative charges) which was sufficient for 208 days as against the commitment of 300 days.

(ii) Despite lower allocation as per norms there were persistent savings ranging between 19 and 47 per cent which indicated lesser coverage of beneficiaries and lower number of days for which supplementary nutrition was offered. Scrutiny revealed that 827 to 4675 AWs remained inoperative which also contributed to huge savings.

The Director stated that non-availability of CARE food and scarcity of staff were the main factors for these huge savings whereas DPOs of the test

³² Allocation in Chhattisgarh State started from November 2000 i.e. from the date of its formation.

checked districts attributed savings to (i) delay in purchase of salt and jaggery (ii) interruption in supply of CARE food and insufficient supply and (iii) delay in reallocation of funds by the district authorities. It is apparent that the Director failed to ensure running of all Anganwadis for the full 300 days.

(iii) Against the norm of Rs.0.20 per beneficiary per day for fuel, salt and jaggery fixed by GOI which worked out to Rs.500 per AW per month (reckoning 100 beneficiaries in each AW), the State Government fixed Rs.300 per Anganwadi per month for 25 feeding days in CARE projects (transportation from project headquarter to AWs: Rs.50, fuel for cooking: Rs.125 and salt and jaggery : Rs.125) without taking into consideration the actual number of beneficiaries enrolled. This worked out of Re.0.12 per beneficiary per day which was grossly inadequate.

(b) Diversion of funds

Rs.95.76 lakh were diverted for the purchase of furniture, utensil etc.

Under the ICDS scheme non-recurring expenditure of Rs.1000 for each AW was admissible for purchase of basic equipment. Commissioner, Women and Child Development, Bhopal irregularly diverted Rs.95.76 lakh (1997-98) allocated for supplementary nutrition on purchase of furniture, dari, utensils etc. Due to diversion of funds the beneficiaries in 13069 AWs were deprived of the benefits of the scheme.

3.4.6 Programme implementation

(a) Establishment of Anganwadis

The number of AWs sanctioned and functioning was as follows:

Year	Number of Projects	Number of AWs sanctioned	Number of AWs functioning
1997-98	131	17744	13069
1998-99	152	20289	16781
1999-2000	152	20289	17243
2000-2001	152	20289	19084
2001-2002	152	20289	19462

Out of 20289 AWs sanctioned till March 2002, distribution of Supplementary Nutrition was yet to be started in 827 AWs (March 2002).

(b) Survey and Identification of Beneficiaries

Survey of all the families was to be conducted in the the project area for identification of eligible beneficiaries and enroll them for providing supplementary nutrition. This survey was to be followed by a repeat survey once in every quarter. The state level position of beneficiaries surveyed, identified and enrolled was not made available.

The position of total population of children, expectant women and nursing mothers eligible, identified and enrolled during 1997-2002 in four test checked districts was as follows:

(In lakh)

Year	Population of (children/mothers)	Beneficiaries surveyed (percentage)	Beneficiaries identified and enrolled (percentage)
1997-98	17.65	4.50 (25)	3.34 (19)
1998-99	17.96	7.54 (42)	5.84 (33)
1999-2000	18.27	7.74 (42)	5.67 (31)
2000-01	18.59	9.49 (51)	6.71 (36)
2001-02	18.91	9.54 (50)	6.92 (37)

9.37 lakh beneficiaries were left uncovered

(i) The above table revealed that as against 18.91 lakh population (children and mothers), 9.54 lakh were surveyed and 6.92 lakh beneficiaries were enrolled leaving 9.37 lakh population (50 per cent) unsurveyed. Even the repeat surveys conducted were ineffective as the percentage of survey remained at 42 per cent during 1998-2000 and 50 per cent during 2000-02.

(ii) Out of 4414 villages in Durg, Jagdalpur and Surguja districts, families of 780 smaller 'villages', 'tolas' and 'falias' situated in remote areas of the existing AWs were not surveyed. DPO Durg and Jagdalpur stated (April / May 2002) that the survey was conducted only in those villages where AWs were actually located and adjoining 'tolas', 'falias' were left due to hilly track while DPO Surguja did not furnish specific reasons.

(iii) For conducting survey each AW was to be supplied with the basic equipment viz. weighing machines, tri colour strips for ascertaining the level of mal nutrition and growth chart for monitoring progress of health status. In 19462 AWs of the State 11753 weighing machines and 11784 growth charts were supplied. Tri colour strips were not supplied at all and 40 per cent of AWs were operating without basic equipment. In Surguja district, 3308 weighing machines supplied (November 1999) were reported defective. Due to non-availability of basic equipment in requisite numbers the identification of beneficiaries was not done effectively.

Poor coverage of beneficiaries in tribal areas

(c) Coverage of Beneficiaries

(i) During 2001-02 the coverage of beneficiaries in the State was as under :

(Figures in lakh)

Nature and No. of Project	Population as per census 2001			Population to be covered (Percentage)	No. of beneficiaries actually covered (Percentage)
	Children below 6 years of age	Expectant women and nursing mothers	Total population		
Rural (61)	16.83	3.98	20.81	8.32 (40)	4.72 (23)
Urban (6)	3.38	0.99	4.37	1.75 (40)	0.69 (16)
Tribal (85)	14.49	3.35	17.84	13.38 (75)	5.00 (28)
Total (152)	34.70	8.32	43.02	23.45	10.41 (44)

Against a population of 43.02 lakh, 23.45 lakh beneficiaries were to be covered as per norms. But only 10.41 lakh (44 per cent) beneficiaries were covered. Despite significant tribal population there was poor coverage (28 per

cent) in tribal areas. Director stated (May 2002) that the proposal for opening additional AWs had been submitted to GOI.

(ii) The position of coverage in four test-checked districts were as under:

(Figures in lakh)

Year	Rural				Urban				Tribal			
	Population as per census 2001		Population to be covered as per norms 40 per cent	Number of beneficiaries actually covered under SNP (percentage)	Population as per census 2001		Population to be covered as per norms 40 per cent	Number of beneficiaries actually covered under SNP (percentage)	Population as per census 2001		Population to be covered as per norms 75 per cent	Number of beneficiaries actually covered under SNP (percentage)
	Children below 6 years of age	Expectant and Nursing mothers			Children below 6 years of age	Expectant and Nursing mother			Children below 6 years of age	Expectant and Nursing mothers		
1997-98	5.85	1.40	2.90	0.31 (4)	2.20	0.59	1.12	0.29 (11)	6.23	1.38	5.71	1.62 (21)
1998-99	5.95	1.42	2.95	1.53 (21)	2.23	0.61	1.14	0.30 (10)	6.35	1.40	5.81	1.98 (26)
1999-00	6.05	1.43	2.99	1.10 (15)	2.26	0.63	1.16	0.30 (10)	6.46	1.43	5.92	1.97 (25)
2000-01	6.15	1.45	3.04	1.78 (23)	2.29	0.66	1.18	0.43 (15)	6.58	1.46	6.03	2.07 (26)
2001-02	6.26	1.46	3.09	1.89 (24)	2.32	0.68	1.20	0.45 (15)	6.70	1.49	6.14	2.40 (29)

The coverage of beneficiaries in rural areas was 4 to 24 per cent, in urban areas 10 to 15 per cent and in tribal areas it was 21 to 29 per cent as against the norms of 40, 40 and 75 per cent respectively with reference to total number of children (below 6 years) and expectant women and nursing mothers. Despite establishment of projects in each block with buildings, vehicles, furniture and equipment by GOI, 13.04 lakh beneficiaries in the State (5.69 lakh beneficiaries in test checked districts) were deprived of the benefits of the programme.

(d) Status of severely malnourished children

Children who are under-weight and found to suffer from third and fourth grade of malnutrition require special care and were to be given therapeutic food (highly nutritious ready to eat food).

As against 1.53 lakh only 9875 (6.25 per cent) severely malnourished children were benefited

Information collected in four test checked districts revealed that in 63 projects as against 1.53 lakh (calculated at the norm of 10 per cent of children population as per national index) only 9875 children were enrolled under this category and double ration was provided to them instead of therapeutic food. Thus the programme failed to make desired impact in improving the health status of the severely malnourished children.

3.4.7 Quantity of food

(i) Inadequate supply of food

As per norms 65 gram corn soya blend (CSB) and 8 gram salad oil in CARE projects and 80 gram dalia/bread in non CARE projects were to be provided each day. Accordingly the quantity of food required for feeding 23.45 lakh beneficiaries and the quantity of food for 300 days actually received/procured during 2001-02 was as under:

Short supply of food for supplementary nutrition

CARE projects				Non-CARE projects	
Quantity of food	Number of beneficiaries (in lakh)	CSB (in MT)	Salad Oil (in MT)	Number of beneficiaries (in lakh)	Dalia/bread (in MT)
Required	17.02	33189.000	4084.800	6.43	15432
Received/procured (percentage)	--	12289.300 (37)	1486.123 (37)	--	7398 (48)

It is clear from the table that the quantity of food received/procured was 37 and 48 per cent of the actual requirements in CARE and non-CARE projects respectively. Though the material supplied was enough only for 9.38 lakh beneficiaries it was utilised for feeding 10.41 lakh beneficiaries. This resulted in interruption in supply and also led to the denial of supplementary nutrition to 13.04 lakh beneficiaries in the State.

(ii) Interruption in supply of supplementary nutrition

Scrutiny revealed that supplementary nutrition was not provided for the prescribed 300 days as follows:

Sl. No.	Categories	State Level data on Anganwadis					Data on Anganwadis in test checked districts				
		Number of AWs Yearwise					Number of AWs Yearwise				
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
1.	Number of Anganwadis functioning	13069	16781	17243	19084	19462	4485	6313	6551	7542	7784
2.	Number of AWs reporting	11622	15654	16316	18797	19286	4485	6313	6551	7542	7784
3.	Number of AWs not reporting (percentage)	1447 (11)	1127 (7)	927 (5)	287 (2)	176 (1)	--	--	--	--	--
4.	200 days to 300 days (percentage)	8756 (67)	11327 (67)	11572 (67)	13264 (69)	14124 (73)	3096 (69)	4764 (75)	4784 (73)	5640 (75)	5573 (72)
5.	Less than 200 day (percentage)	2107 (16)	2390 (15)	3225 (19)	4928 (26)	4604 (23)	920 (21)	949 (15)	1313 (20)	1680 (22)	1897 (24)
6.	Number of AWs who did not provide SN even for a day (Percentage)	759 (6)	1937 (11)	1519 (9)	605 (3)	558 (3)	469 (10)	600 (10)	454 (7)	222 (3)	314 (4)

Interruption ranging from 1 to 200 days in supply of CARE food

It would be seen from the above Table that 3 to 11 per cent of AWs in operation did not distribute supplementary nutrition even for a single day during 1997-02. Further as 15 to 26 per cent AWs could distribute nutritional food only for less than 200 days in a year. Thus 67 to 73 per cent AWs only could provide feeding for more than 200 days. The situation in the test checked districts was similar. The DPOs attributed this to the irregular supply of CARE commodities to the AWs. The Department thus failed to ensure regular supply of nutritional food in not providing alternative arrangements in CARE projects.

3.4.8 Quality of food

(i) Non-supply of weaning food

As per GOI norms weaning food in the form of milk or milk powder or any other food easily swallowable and nutritive was to be supplied to children in

Failure to supply weaning food

the age group of 6 months to one year. In test checked districts it was noticed that children upto 1 year were supplied corn soya blend, salad oil (in CARE projects) and dalia/bread in others that could not be termed as weaning food as the same were not easily swallowable. Director, while admitting (February 2002) that weaning food was not being provided to children of 6 months to 1 year age group did not furnish any reason therefor. Thus, the children upto 1 year of age in the State were deprived of supplementary nutrition.

(ii) Inadequate supply of salad oil

Short supply of salad oil in CARE projects.

Test check of records of 10 projects (9:Jagdalpur,1:Durg) revealed that 129.466 MT corn soya blend and 6.028 MT salad oil was supplied in the ratio of 21:1 in Jagdalpur district from September 1997 to March 1998 and May to October 2001 against the required ratio of 8:1. Similarly, 6.459 MT corn soya blend and 0.536 MT salad oil was supplied in the ratio of 12:1 in Bemetara project (Durg) in July 2001. The failure of Director in monitoring the short supply of salad oil resulted in distribution of corn soya without desired taste and nutrition, defeating the objective of providing tasty and nutritive food to malnourished children.

(iii) Loss on jaggery spoiled in storage

Loss of Rs.12.51 lakh due to spoiling of 864.59 quintals jaggery in storage.

Jaggery and salt was to be purchased at district level and supplied to the AWs with the intent of making food tasty in CARE fed projects.

Scrutiny revealed that out of total supply of 2249.68 quintal, only 1385.09 quintal jaggery could be utilised upto February 1998. Government had to incur a loss of Rs.12.51 lakh as jaggery weighing 864.59 quintal got spoilt in storage. No responsibility was, however, fixed for the loss to the Government.

It was further noticed that funds (Rs.42.73 lakh) allocated for 1998-99 remained unutilised due to ban on purchase of jaggery. Consequently 2306.425 MT corn soya blend and 260.313 MT salad oil were distributed without jaggery and salt in 1106 AWs (9 projects) during December 1997 to March 1998 and in 1636 AWs (14 projects) during 1998-99.

(iv) Supply of tasteless Panjiri

Irregular expenditure of Rs.26.59lakh on supply of sugar deficient Panjiri in three tribal projects of Surguja district

Test check of records of DPO Surguja revealed that expenditure of Rs.26.59 lakh was incurred on purchase of 215.5 MT panjiri (64.25 MT for 30 special nutrition feeding centres in Ambikapur during 1997-2000, 100.45 MT for Surajpur project during 1999-2000 and 50.80 MT for Ramanuj Nagar project during 1999-2000). 10 samples of panjiri were drawn between February 1998 to March 2000. The test reports of these samples indicated that though the samples had the requisite protein and calorie content it was tasteless due to deficiency of requisite sugar content.

DPO Surguja replied that analysis reports were received late from the laboratory and the deficiency in panjiri was brought to the notice of the Collector who directed the plant representative to supply tasty panjiri subsequently. The supply of tasteless panjiri however continued from February 1998 to March 2000. No penalty was imposed on the supplier.

(v) Short realisation of fuel, jaggery, salt and transportation charges from suppliers

As per State Government order Rs.300 per month was to be recovered from suppliers towards the cost of fuel, jaggery, salt and transportation for each Anganwadi.

Test check of records of DPO Durg and Raipur revealed that as against Rs.44.08 lakh (Rs.24.51 lakh: Durg and Rs.19.57 lakh: Raipur) required to be collected from the suppliers on the basis of number of anganwadis, only Rs.35.11 lakh (Rs.18.13 Lakh: Durg and Rs.16.98 lakh: Raipur) could be collected from the suppliers.

Short realisation of Rs.8.97 lakh from suppliers in Durg and Raipur districts

Food commodity stock accumulated due to excess procurement based on inflated enrolment of beneficiaries instead of actual consumption resulted in non-placing of monthly indents for 2 and 4 months in Raipur and Durg districts respectively. The cost of fuel, salt, jaggery etc. amounting to Rs.8.97 lakh (Rs.6.38 lakh Durg and Rs.2.59 lakh Raipur) could thus not be deducted from the bills of suppliers.

DPOs stated that the supply orders were made on the basis of demand through indents by the project officers on monthly basis. These being unrealistic resulted in undue benefit to the suppliers on the one hand and deprived the Anganwadis of necessary ingredients of fuel, salt and jaggery needed for preparation of food.

3.4.9 Other points of interest

(i) Non-conversion of special nutrition feeding centres into AWs

The benefit of free supply of CARE food not availed due to non-conversion of special nutrition feeding centres into AWs in Ambikapur ICDS project

As per GOI guidelines existing special nutrition feeding centres were to be merged under ICDS projects. It was observed that 30 such centres being run under DPO Surguja in the urban slums of Ambikapur were not merged and converted into AWs covered under CARE, even after opening of ICDS project in Ambikapur in 1995-96. Had this been done the expenditure of Rs.34.86 lakh incurred on distribution of Panjiri to 6000 beneficiaries during 1997-02, could have been avoided. Scrutiny further revealed that no records were maintained by these centres and none of them ever furnished any physical progress reports. Reduction in supply of panjiri resulted in decrease in feeding days from 173 days in 1999-2000 to 21 days in 2001-02. DPO Surguja stated that due to regular receipt of the budget allotment, these feeding centres were continued. The reply was not tenable in view of GOI guidelines and meagre supply of nutritional food. Thus, due to non-merger of these centres into ICDS, the beneficiaries of these centres were deprived of the nutritional food.

(ii) Idle retention of sale proceeds and delay in disposal of empty bags and pails

Sale proceeds of empties of Rs.27.86 lakh deposited in Bank and empties worth Rs.11.64 lakh not disposed of

Government of Madhya Pradesh fixed (January 1998) a minimum sale price for empties at Re.0.40 per bag and Rs.20 per pail. As against 1196887 bags and 183616 pails worth Rs.39.50 lakh generated during 1997-2002 in 4 test checked districts, empties worth Rs.27.86 lakh only were disposed of upto

March 2002. Further, the sale proceeds collected were deposited and were still held in bank accounts of the respective CDPOs.

Though orders were issued by GOI in August 1986 in consultation with the State Government for part utilisation of sale proceeds for replacement of articles and upkeep of the stores in the AWs, no amount was however spent. Further empties worth Rs.11.64 lakh were still lying undisposed in AW's stock. The objective of resource generation from sale of empties for upgrading the existing facilities in AWs thus was not fulfilled.

Vouchers for fuel expenses of Rs.3.35 crore not maintained

(iii) Non-maintenance of account records of fuel charges

Scrutiny of records revealed that expenditure of Rs.3.35 crore was incurred during 1997-2002 on fuel charges for which no records were maintained by AWs. The correctness of expenditure could thus not be verified.

Population yardsticks of GOI not strictly adhered while opening of 649 AWs in Durg and Raipur districts

(iv) Improper establishment of AWs in rural areas

Under the ICDS scheme an AW in rural areas was to be opened for average population of 1000. Records of seventeen projects Durg (7) and Raipur (10) revealed that 649 AWs were established on the recommendation of Janpad Panchayats where population of villages was far below the GOI norms as depicted below :

Year of opening of AWs	No. of villages having population upto 300 where AWs established	No. of villages having population 301-500 where AWs established	No. of villages having population 501-700 where AWs established	No. of villages having population 501-830 where AWs established
1997-98	08	72	159	93
1998-1999	10	40	69	51
1999-2000	04	32	46	20
2000-2001	01	11	23	10
Total	23	155	297	174

This resulted in extra expenditure (recurring/non-recurring) on these AWs and also led to poor coverage due to non-availability of beneficiaries required as per norms (78 beneficiaries per 1000 population). DPOs stated that the proposals were prepared at the block level on the basis of socio economic and geographical backwardness of the villages. The reply was not tenable as GOI norms were not followed.

3.4.10 Nutrition under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojna

(i) Inflated proposal for availing the grant from GOI

Availing of excess GOI grant of Rs.6.15 crore during 2001-2002 by inflating the numbers of children

Under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojna (PMGY) additional supplementary nutrition was available to children below 3 years of age especially in rural areas. PMGY was implemented in 35 (29 rural + 6 urban) projects having a beneficiary population of 266399 children (census 2001) in 0-3 years age group at a cost of Rs.18.93 crore per annum. The proposal submitted, however, projected 357128 children costing Rs.25.08 crore per annum resulting in inflated proposal by Rs.6.15 crore. GOI released (August 2001) Rs.12 crore for 6 months, of which Rs.7.73 crore remained unspent at the end of March 2002.

(ii) Irregular selection of urban projects

As per GOI guidelines children (0-3years), living in rural areas who come from tribal families, scheduled castes, landless labourers, slum dwellers and those living below the poverty line were to be focussed as a target group.

It was observed that all the AWs of 6 urban projects and special nutrition (feeding) centres of two districts i.e. Rajnandgaon and Surguja which were already covered under SNP were selected under PMGY for coverage. Thus due to dual coverage in test checked districts an avoidable expenditure of Rs.47.53 lakh (Rs 23.89 lakh in 2 urban projects of Durg, Rs. 15.14 lakh in one urban project of Raipur and Rs. 8.50 lakh on feeding centres of Surguja) was incurred on urban areas.

3.4.11 Monitoring

Monitoring of supplementary nutrition programme was to be done through Monthly Progress Reports (MPRs).

Test check revealed that as many as 1447 AWs in 1997-98, 1127 AWs in 1998-99, 927 AWs in 1999-2000, 287 AWs in 2000-2001 and 176 AWs in 2001-2002 did not furnish MPRs and this fact was confirmed by the Director in his reply (May 2002).

A community based monitoring mechanism as envisaged in the constitution of Bal Vikas Mahila Samitis at the village, the block and the district level was to be set up to monitor the programme.

3.4.12 Evaluation of the programme

The programme was neither evaluated by the State Government itself nor was evaluation got done through any independent agency to ascertain its impact.

3.4.13 Conclusion

The programme aimed at improving the nutrition level of children below six years of age and expectant women and nursing mothers. Funds amounting to Rs.17.58 crore were spent on the programme during 2001-02, which failed to achieve its objectives due to coverage of only 44 per cent of the eligible beneficiaries. 13.04 lakh children and mothers remained uncovered largely due to ineffective surveys. The nutritional food supply in 605 to 1937 AWs remained suspended during 1997-2002. Besides, 20 per cent AWs could distribute supplementary nutrition for less than 200 days in a year as against 300 days envisaged. Thus implementing/monitoring agencies could not give thrust to the programme and ensure desired results.

The above points were referred to the Government in October 2002; reply had not been received (February 2003).