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**By**

**individual members/experts**

**for**

**discussion in the NAC and do not, in all cases,**

**reflect settled conclusions of the NAC**

# Governance Issues in ICDS

NAC

25<sup>th</sup> June, 2005

NC Saxena and Jayanti Ravi

# India's children are in a state of permanent humanitarian emergency

- Half of all Indian children below the age of 3 are undernourished.
- More than half suffer from moderate or severe anaemia.
- Thirty per cent had fever during the two weeks preceding the survey, 20 per cent had diarrhoea, and another 20 per cent had an infectious cough.
- Only 25% children (3-5) attend pre-school ICDS centres
- Very few developing countries have worse indicators than ours

*Little sign of rapid improvement over time*

# Fact sheet on ICDS

- Number of children aged 0-6 15.8 crores
- Number of children officially receiving supplementary nutrition in ICDS centres: 3.4 crores
- Number of Anganwadi centres: 6.73 lakhs
- Number of Anganwadi centres providing nutrition 5.95 lakhs
- Central allocation on ICDS 2005-06: Rs 3,142 crores

*The combined expenditure of central and state governments on ICDS is around Rs 4,500 crores. We must ensure that it is well spent.*

# Reality

- At present for around 14 lakh habitations, there are only 6 lakh reporting Anganwadi centers.
- Against 15.6 crore children in the age group 6 months to 6 years (of which roughly 7 crores are malnourished), only 3.4 crore children are registered for supplementary nutrition.
- The number actually getting the benefit of feeding may be far less, and not everyday.
- Adolescent girls are nowhere in the picture

*States complain of insufficient funds but Jharkhand surrendered 30 crores in 2003-04*

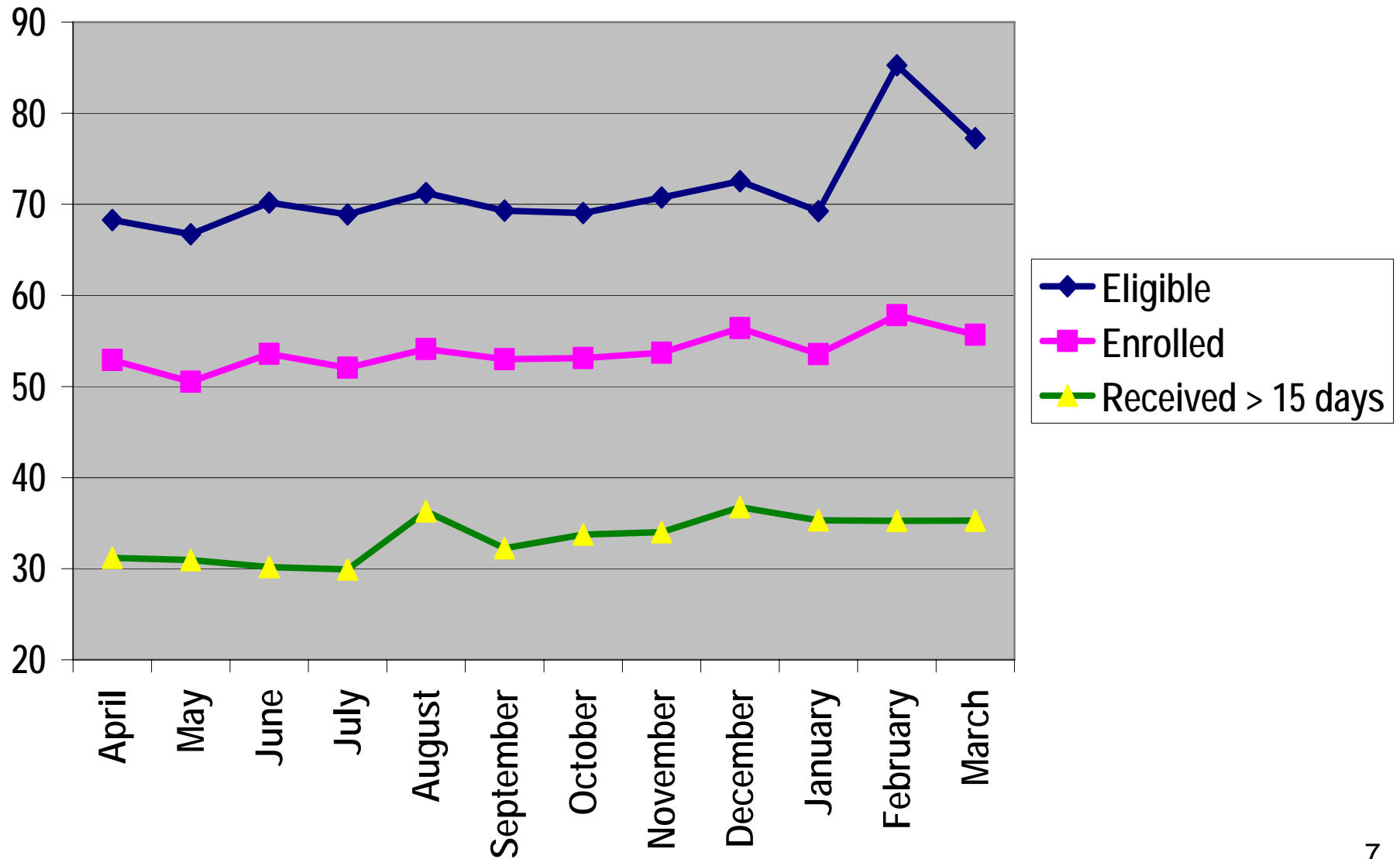
## % Children (3-6 yrs) Enrolled in ICDS Program by Quintiles, WB

State	Total no. of children (3-6 yrs) sampled (ICDS Survey)	% children enrolled in ICDS by asset quintiles (ICDS Survey)					
		Q1 (poorest)	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Total
A Pradesh	37408						46.3
Maharashtra	7827	98.2	94.4	92.2	92.0	85.0	93.2
Rajasthan	11238	28.5	16.9	13.6	13.3	10.6	17.1
Uttar Pradesh	10453	6.8	13.8	16.4	19.3	31.9	18.6
Kerala	11349	45.3	46.9	48.1	51.0	58.4	49.9
M Pradesh	7311	71.4	77.3	69.3	70.8	69.3	71.0

# Expenditure on ICDS in MP

	State Plan Outlay	PMGY	Total	Expenditure	% of exp to outlay
1997-98	41.4		41.4	37.4	90.3
1998-99	47		47	32.5	69.1
1999-00	49.6		49.6	37.9	76.4
2000-01	51.3	17.1	68.4	39.4	57.6
2001-02	42	19.2	61.2	35.8	58.5
2002-03	59.7	21.3	81	39.8	49.1

Number of SNP beneficiaries for each month 2004-05 in lakhs



# In UP

- ICDS supplies are centralised and source of great political and bureaucratic corruption
- CARE withdrew from UP because of centralised corruption
- Endemic corruption and patronage in selection of AWWs and Supervisors, as 50% weightage is for interviews
- Administrators admitted that they are not in a position to change the system. According to them, 'Only GOI or the Supreme court's intervention can help'.

*No supplementary food (Panjiree) was distributed between the months of November'03 -May'04*

# Other issues

- Two-thirds of all centres are running in rented buildings, which are invariably in upper caste locality, thus favouring their children, to the neglect of lower caste children
- 40% vacancies at the supervisor level, though budget is from GOI
- No coordination with FCI, or with CARE
- Little attention to 6 months to 3 years, which is the most crucial period

# Increasing the number of ICDS centres

- Supreme Court Order for increase in numbers is dated 29/4/2004
- Part of Common Minimum Programme June 2004
- GOI Cabinet decided to increase the AWCs by 1.88 lakh on 29/12/04

*So far no orders have been issued to the states  
about the increase*

# Reasons for delay

- EFC note circulated to all concerned Ministries
- Comments from all Ministries
- Proposal redone to incorporate the views of Ministries
- Holding of the EFC Meeting
- Minutes of the EFC meeting
- Preparation of note for the CCEA (Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs)
- Circulation to all concerned Ministries and receipt of their comments
- Incorporation of comments, consolidation and submission to the CCEA
- Meeting of the CCEA
- Sanction of the 1.88 Lakh AWCs by the DWCD

# Reasons for delay -II

- Budget provision for the 1.88 Lakh AWCs by respective State Governments.
- Recruitment of the CDPO and Supervisor by the State Public Service Commission of each State.
- Finalization of the actual location of the AWC within the village/ hamlet/locality
- Recruitment of the AW Worker and Helper
- Pre- induction Training for the AWW and the Helpers
- Survey of Area under Anganwadi, mobilization and creation of awareness.
- Provision of Food and other Kits to the AWCs
- Operationalisation of Anganwadis

***Earliest one could expect is June 2007!***

## How to minimise delay?

- Rather than do activities sequentially, we should do them in a parallel fashion. If GOI can write just now (without waiting for EFC etc.) to States to start recruitment, much of the delay can be reduced. Similarly the States can complete several steps (recruitment, selection of villages and sites, advance budget provision) simultaneously rather than do one activity at a time.

# Simplify budgetary & recruitment provisions

- All CSS require budgetary provision in both central and state budgets, which should not be necessary
- Expenditure budget should remain valid for two years
- Online and transparent recruitment on the basis of previously held examinations, with no interview, by giving weightage to place of residence, caste, gender, etc.

*Much of this will require amending the  
Constitution of India!*