

NIDDCP to Contain Iodine Deficiency in the Country by 2012
Asha to have Salt Testing Kit to Promote Iodated Salt
Global Iodine Deficiency Disorder Prevention Day tomorrow

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare along with national and international stakeholders and partners is organizing a two-day National Multi-sectoral Workshop on National Iodine Deficiency Disorder Control Programme (NIDDCP) to mark Global Iodine Deficiency Disorder (IDD) Prevention Day on 21 October, 2010. Minister of State Shri S Gandhiselvan will inaugurate the workshop at Vigyan Bhawan tomorrow at 10 am.

As per an official survey 263 districts all over the country are endemic i.e. where prevalence of IDD is more than 10 per cent. NIDDCP aims to bring down prevalence of IDD to below 10% in the country by 2012 and ensure 100 per cent consumption of iodated salt at the household and Community level.

Main features of NIDDCP are as follows:

Iodine is an essential micronutrient required daily at 100-150 micrograms for normal human growth and development. Deficiency of iodine can cause physical and mental retardation, cretinism, abortions, stillbirth, deaf mutism, squint & various types of goiter. As per surveys conducted in the country by the Directorate General of Health Services, Indian Council of Medical Research, the State Health Directorates and Health Institutes it has been found that out of 324 districts surveyed in all the 28 States and 7 Union Territories, 263 districts are endemic i.e. where the prevalence of Iodine Deficiency Disorders is more than 10%. No State/UT is free from Iodine Deficiency Disorders.

Goal:

- (i) To bring the prevalence of IDD to below 10% in the country by 2012.
- (ii) To ensure 100% consumption of adequately iodated salt (15 PPM) at the household/community level.

Objectives:

1. Surveys to assess the magnitude of the Iodine Deficiency Disorders in the districts.
2. Supply of iodated salt in place of common salt.
3. Resurveys to assess iodine deficiency disorders and impact of iodated salt after every 5 years in the districts.
4. Laboratory monitoring of iodated salt and urinary iodine excretion.
5. Health Education and Publicity (Information, Education & Communication, IEC)

Achievements:

1. Notification banning the sale of non iodized salt for direct human consumption in the entire country w.e.f. 17th May, 2006 under the PFA 1954 is effective for better implementation of NIDDCP in all States/UTs.
2. Consequent upon liberalization of iodated salt production. Salt Commissioner has issued licenses to 824 salt manufacturers out of which 532 units have commenced production. These units have an annual production capacity of 120 lakh metric tones of iodated salt.

3. Annual production/Supply of iodated salt has been raised from 5 lakh MT in 1985-86 to 54.00 lakh MT in 2009-10.
4. For effective implementation of NIDDCP 30 States/UTs have established IDD Control Cells in their State Health Directorate, 27 States/UTs have already set up IDD monitoring laboratories while the remaining States are in the process of establishing the same.
5. In order to monitor the quality of iodated salt and urinary iodine excretion, the State Governments are also provided grants for Iodine Deficiency Disorders Cell, Iodine Deficiency Disorders Lab, Surveys and IEC activities.
6. The survey amount per district has been raised from Rs. 25,000/- to Rs. 50,000/- with effect from April 2008.
7. A National Reference Laboratory for monitoring of IDD has been set up at NCDC for, Delhi. Four Regional laboratories at NIN, Hyderabad for South, AIIPH&PH, Kolkata for East and North-East, AIIMS, Delhi for West and NCDC, Delhi for North to conduct training, monitoring, quality control of salt and urine testing at consumption level.
8. Extensive IEC activities have been carried out to create awareness about the regular consumption of iodated salt in prevention and control of IDD through Doordarshan, All India Radio, Directorate of Field Publicity, Song & Drama, Directorate of Audio Visual Publicity.
9. Salt Testing Kits are being supplied for the use of ASHA/Health worker for creating awareness and monitoring at the community level about consumption of iodated salt in all districts of the country.
10. There has been significant reduction in visible goitre and thyroid surgery in the entire country.

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