



भारत सरकार
महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय
शास्त्री भवन, नई दिल्ली-110 001
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT
SHASTRI BHAWAN, NEW DELHI-110 001
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JOINT SECRETARY

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Dear *Dr. Singh,*

As you may be aware, the Government of India guidelines for Selection of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) under the ICDS Scheme provides that:

“The Anganwadi workers should be a lady [18-44 years] from the local village and acceptable in the local community. Special care should be taken in her selection so that the children of Scheduled Castes and other weaker sections of the society are ensured free access to Anganwadi. It is suggested that the AWWs in the selected project areas may be selected by a committee consisting of the District Social Welfare Officer, the BDO, the CDPO, the Medical Officer of the primary health centre, the President of the Taluka Panchayat/Block Advisory Committee, the district representative of the State Social Welfare Advisory Board and any other non-officials which the State Government may consider appropriate.”

2. These instructions were issued in 1975 at the time of launch of the ICDS Scheme. Subsequently, in Ministry's letter No.1-14/2006-CD.I, dated 2nd November, 2006 and 28th May, 2007, the States/UTs were requested to ensure strict compliance of the instructions and also advised that it would not be appropriate to include Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) in the selection process of AWWs, who are honorary and grass-roots functionaries under the ICDS Scheme.

3. However, it has come to the notice of the Ministry that some of the States continue to include MLAs as Members/Chairman of the Selection Committee, constituted for selection of AWWs. This had been viewed seriously by the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka in WP No.16378 of 2006. The Court has observed as under:

“The Central Government, which has been impleaded as a party respondent in WP No.16378 of 2006 is to re-examine the implementation of the Scheme by the State Government and issue necessary directions for the effective implementation of the Scheme in all the States/ Union Territories. The Central Government shall particularly address the issue of Selection Committees and ensure that the State Governments do not take law into their own hands on this aspect of selection of AWWs to the detriment of the proper implementation of the Scheme.”

4. The matter had come up before a Parliamentary Committee which has recommended compliance with the Govt. of India guidelines. This is to clarify that the reference to non-officials in the Selection Committee is meant to be a provision for inclusion of members belonging to those who have expertise in the child development area, non-governmental organizations, persons belonging to the locality from the disadvantaged sections, SCs/STs/Minority Community, etc. This provision should not be interpreted to be providing for inclusion of Members of Legislative Assemblies.

5. I would, therefore, request you that the Govt. of India guidelines may be strictly be complied with and the Ministry may be apprised of the action taken to the constitute/reconstitute, if need be, the Selection Committee, as per the guidelines. It is requested that this may be assured in not later than two months.

With regards.

Yours sincerely,

Shreeranj
(Dr. Shreeranj)

To

All State Secretaries
dealing with ICSS Scheme.