Dear Shri Mohapatra,

Soil Transmitted helminthes (STH) are significant public health concern for India. Around 68% children of 1-14 years of age (241 million) are estimated to be at risk of parasitic intestinal worm infestation. Evidence has shown detrimental impact of STH infestation on physical growth-anemia, under nutrition and cognitive development as well as school attendance. Periodic deworming can reduce the transmission of STH infections.

In view of this, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with active involvement of Ministry of Women and Child Development, Department of School Education and Literacy under Ministry of Human Resource Development, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation and Ministry of Panchayati Raj had launched National Deworming Day (NDD) on 10th February, 2015 across 11 States as a fixed day strategy to reduce the harm caused by STH on millions children in India in a cost effective, simple and safe manner. The NDD has resulted in administration of deworming drug to more than 89 million children across these States.

Against this backdrop MoHFW has decided to continue this annual mass deworming strategy by observing National Deworming Day (NDD) on 10th February, 2016 across the country through schools and anganwadi centres alongwith prior awareness generation activities focusing on benefits of consuming Albendazole and adopting sanitation-hygiene practices.

As part of NDD 2016, school teachers and anganwadi workers would administer Albendazole (deworming medicine) to all Children of 1-19 years on 10th February, 2016. All children who were missed out on NDD will be covered on Mop up day i.e 15th February, 2016. Anganwadi workers along with ASHA and school teachers are also encouraged to hold community awareness activities in the community prior to 10th February through VHSNC meetings, household visits, gram panchayat meetings and other interactions for dissemination of messages on the benefits of deworming and ensuring Albendazole coverage on the NDD. Ensuring safe portable water and
sanitation and hygiene is critical to avoid incidence of re-infection as well as to reduce the intensity of STH infestation. The IEC material available with your Ministry regarding water, sanitation, hygiene may also be used or collaboration with the Health Department to spread awareness messages through SMS and other platforms.

You are therefore, requested to inform State Water and Sanitation, Hygiene Department for necessary support to the State Health Department for successful implementation of the NDD 2016 under intimation to the Chief Secretary of the State Governments/UTs.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(B.P. Sharma)

Shri J.K. Mohapatra,
Secretary,
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