Dear Dr. Vijaya Baskar ji,

In India, around 241 million children are at risk of parasitic intestinal worm infestation. Infection of heavy intensity impairs physical growth, cognitive development and is a cause of micronutrient deficiencies like anaemia leading to poor school performance and absenteeism in children. Periodic deworming of children together with improvement of water and sanitation, and health education can reduce the transmission of Soil Transmitted Helminths (STH) infestation.

2. Thus, considering the State’s preparedness and with an aim to intensify efforts towards STH control, it has been decided to conduct National Deworming Day (NDD) on 16th February, 2015 (Tuesday) followed by a Mop-Up round on 13th February, 2015 (Friday) in 12 States namely Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Dadar & Nagar Haveli, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Tripura.

3. On the National Deworming Day, all the 1 – 19 years of children will be provided Albendazole through the platform of school and Anganwadi centers except in identified Lymphatic Filariasis endemic districts. A comprehensive NDD toolkit containing Operational framework, monitoring checklists, FAQs and Factsheets would be shared with States soon for facilitating the steps for implementation. Enthusiastic efforts of MPs, MLAs, Members of Panchayati Raj institutions, urban local bodies and civil society members along with Education Department and Women and Child Development Department are critical to the success of the National Deworming Day.

4. I am confident that if the comprehensive set of actions identified for National Deworming Day is fully implemented; children and adolescents will have improved health outcomes and be able to achieve their fullest potential.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Jagat Prakash Nadda)

Dr. C. Vijaya Baskar
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