Dear Deepak,

Soil transmitted helminths (STH) are a significant public health concern for India. Around 241 million (68%) children are estimated to be at risk of parasitic intestinal worm infestation. Evidences have shown detrimental impact of STH infestation on physical growth – anaemia, undernutrition and cognitive development. Children with the highest intensity STH infections are often too sick or too tired to concentrate at school or attend school at all. High worm load has been proven to adversely affect the attendance in school. Subsequent life outcomes for these children are also considerably impacted due to lower lifetime incomes. Periodic deworming of children together with improvement of water and sanitation, and health education can reduce the transmission of STH infections.

Global experience has shown that launching a high quality mass deworming program to reach children and adolescents at scale could dramatically reduce the harm caused by STH on millions of children in India in a cost effective, simple and safe manner. Thus, with an aim to intensify efforts towards STH control, it has been decided to conduct National Deworming Day (NDD) on 10th February, 2015 (Tuesday) followed by a Mop-Up round on 13th February, 2015 (Friday).

Considering the States’ preparedness for effectively conducting the deworming round, it has been decided to begin with National Deworming Day in selected 12 States namely Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Dadar & Nagar Haveli, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Tripura in the first phase.

During the National Deworming Day, all the children of age 1 – 19 years will be provided Albendazole through the platform of school and Anganwadi centers except in identified Lymphatic Filariasis endemic districts.

A detailed NDD Toolkit containing Operational framework, monitoring checklists, FAQs and Factsheets is uploaded on NHM website. As part of National Deworming Day, school teachers would provide Albendazole tablet to school enrolled children on 10th February, 2015 and missed children would be covered on the Mop-Up day i.e. 13th February, 2015. PRI members are encouraged to Anganwadi workers alongwith ASHA and school teachers should also be encouraged to address awareness generation prior to 10th February through VHSNC meetings, household visits, gram Panchayats etc. for dissemination of messages on the benefits of deworming and ensuring Albendazole coverage on the NDD. Thus active involvement of members of PRI at village, block and district level is critical to the success and impact of the National Deworming Day.
We jointly request that the State Departments of both Health and PRI collectively converge for effective implementation of National Deworming Day through platform of schools. Secretaries and Directors dealing with the subject are requested to oversee the implementation of NDD for health and educational benefit for our children.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Lov Verma)

Shri Deepak Mohan Spolia,
Chief Secretary,
Government of NCT of Delhi,
I.P. Estate,
Delhi – 110002.

Yours sincerely,

(A.K. Angurana)