Dear Chief Secretary,

Soil transmitted helminths (STH) are significant public health concern for India. Around 241 million (68%) children are estimated to be at risk of parasitic intestinal worm infestation. Evidence has 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. Periodic deworming can reduce the transmission of STH infections.

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). On the NDD i.e. on 10th February 2015, all children enrolled in schools in classes 1st to 12th standard would be provided Albendazole tablets and missed children would be covered on the Mop-Up day i.e. 13th February, 2015. The initiative is being launched in 12 States namely Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Dadar & Nagar Haveli, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Tripura in the first phase. On NDD 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. Health Department would ensure supply of Albendazole tablets, their distribution to students and reporting formats at each school and impart orientation to school teachers to generate awareness prior to 10th February through assembly sessions, Prabhat Pheris, Bal Panchayats, parents-teachers meetings etc for dissemination of messages on the benefits of deworming and consuming Albendazole tablet on the NDD.

The activities required to be undertaken at the State level in convergence between the two departments would be as under:

1. School Education Departments to coordinate with Department of Health in effective roll-out of NDD.

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Dated: 04th February, 2015
2. School Education Department to provide the Department of Health with the figures of enrolment so as to ensure the adequate supply of Albendazole tablets is made available.

3. Schools to disseminate the IEC material provided by the Department of Health to the school management committee members and parents.

4. The Department of Health officials/team to administer deworming tablets in schools to students.

5. Officials of both the Departments be encouraged to undertake field visits for monitoring and supportive supervision on the NDD.

6. Reporting formats filled by schools to be collected by ANMs from schools within specified timelines.

We jointly request that the State Departments of both Health and Education collectively converge together for effective implementation of NDD through platform of schools. You are also requested to hold a meeting with the departments of Health, School Education, Woman and Child Development and Panchayati Raj for effective implementation and coverage of children on National Deworming Day in Schools and Anganwadi centres.

Yours sincerely,

(Vrinda Sarup) (B.P. Sharma)

To

The Chief Secretaries

(Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Dadar & Nagar Haveli, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Tripura)

Copy to:
1. Commissioner, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan
2. Commissioner, NavodayaVidyalaya Sangathan
3. Director, Central Tibetan Schools Administration