The reduction of child mortality, the improvement of child health and the development of a new generation of healthy and well-nourished young adults has been a continuing priority over the years. We are also committed to the UN Declaration of the Rights of the Child, 1959 which mandates that every child should be given every opportunity to grow and develop physically, mentally and socially. If we are to achieve this objective, an essential requirement is early detection and management of common health conditions in children. As per available estimates, 6% of children are born with birth defects and 10% of children are affected with developmental delays leading to disabilities. 4% of under-five mortality is attributed solely to birth defects.

To improve survival, growth and development of children, a new initiative the **Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK)** has been launched. The RBSK will focus on screening of infants, children and young adults over the period from birth to 18 years for **Defects at birth, Diseases, Deficiencies, Developmental delays and Disabilities**. Children diagnosed with illness shall receive follow-up care including early intervention services at the district level and including surgeries at tertiary level, free of cost under the National Health Mission. The screening exercise, which is expected to cover 27 crore children, will involve allopathic and AYUSH doctors, nurses, ANMs, ASHAs, AWWs, and other health workers available in the states who will visit Government schools, aided schools and Anganwadi centres.

Detailed operational guidelines on RBSK are enclosed for your reference. This challenging and very important initiative cannot be successfully implemented without effective co-ordination between the functionaries of the Departments of Health, Women and Child Development, School Education, Disability Affairs, Medical Education, Drinking Water and Sanitation, Tribal Affairs, Panchayati Raj, Rural Development and Urban Development. I would be grateful if you could take regular meetings of the Secretaries concerned and
their Heads of Department, to ensure a coordinated plan of action to ensure child survival and child health. I would also be grateful if necessary instructions could be given to Divisional Commissioners, District Collectors/Deputy Commissioners/District Magistrates and Chief Development Officers to provide leadership to this programme and undertake regular reviews.

I look forward to your suggestions and your assistance.

Yours sincerely

(Keshav Desiraju)

Encl: As above

To: Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs

Copy to

1. Smt. Vibha Puri Das, Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs
2. Shri S. Vijay Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development
3. Smt. Loretta Mary Vyas, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj
4. Shri Sudhir Krishna, Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development
5. Shri Prem Narain, Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development
6. Shri Rajarshi Bhattacharya, Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development
7. Smt. Stuti Kacker, Secretary, Department of Disability Affairs, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
8. Shri Pankaj Jain, Secretary, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Government</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone/Fax</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shri Anand Prakash</td>
<td>Chief Secretary</td>
<td>Govt of Andaman and Nicobar</td>
<td>Port Blair - 744 108</td>
<td>Fax: 03192-232656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. B.K. Mohanty</td>
<td>Chief Secretary</td>
<td>Govt of Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>3rd Floor, C-Block, AP Secretariat</td>
<td>Fax: 040-23453700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shri Naba Kumar Das</td>
<td>Chief Secretary</td>
<td>Govt of Assam</td>
<td>Secretariat</td>
<td>Fax: 0361-2260900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Hari Krishna Paliwal</td>
<td>Chief Secretary</td>
<td>Govt of Arunachal Pradesh</td>
<td>Civil Secretariat</td>
<td>Fax: 0360-2212446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shri A.K. Sinha</td>
<td>Chief Secretary</td>
<td>Govt of Bihar</td>
<td>New Secretariat</td>
<td>Fax: 0612-2217085</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shri Sunil Kumar</td>
<td>Chief Secretary</td>
<td>Govt of Chhattisgarh</td>
<td>D.K.S. Bhawan, Mantralatya</td>
<td>Fax: 0771-2221206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shri K. K. Sharma</td>
<td>Advisor to Administrator</td>
<td>Govt of Chandigarh (UT)</td>
<td>Chandigarh - 160001</td>
<td>Fax: 0172 - 2740165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shri B.S. Bhalla</td>
<td>Administrator</td>
<td>Govt of Dadra &amp; Nagar Haveli</td>
<td>Collectorte, Silvassa - 396230</td>
<td>Fax: 0260 - 2230775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shri B.S. Bhalla</td>
<td>Administrator</td>
<td>Govt of Daman &amp; Diu (UT)</td>
<td>Daman : 396220</td>
<td>Fax: 0260 - 2642702</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. B.K. Mohanty</td>
<td>Chief Secretary</td>
<td>Govt of Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>3rd Floor, C-Block, AP Secretariat</td>
<td>Fax: 040-23453700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shri Deepak Spolia</td>
<td>Chief Secretary</td>
<td>Govt of NCT of Delhi</td>
<td>Delhi – 110002</td>
<td>Fax: 23392102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. B. Vijayan</td>
<td>Chief Secretary</td>
<td>Govt of Goa</td>
<td>Secretariat, Pororim</td>
<td>Fax: 0832-2415201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shri Pradeep Kumar Chaudhary</td>
<td>Chief Secretary</td>
<td>Govt of Haryana</td>
<td>New Civil Secretariat Building</td>
<td>Fax: 0172-2740317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shri Sudripto Roy</td>
<td>Chief Secretary</td>
<td>Govt of Himachal Pradesh</td>
<td>H.P. Secretariat</td>
<td>Fax: 0177-2621813</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shri M.I. Khandey</td>
<td>Chief Secretary</td>
<td>Govt of Jammu and Kashmir</td>
<td>J&amp;K Civil Secretariat</td>
<td>Fax: 0191-2452356</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Smt. R. Ongmu
Chief Secretary
Govt of Sikkim
Gangtok - 737102
Fax: 03592-204323

Shri Alok Kumar Jain
Chief Secretary
Govt of Uttrakhand
Dehra Dun - 248001
Fax: 0135-2712500

Smt Sheela Balakrishnan
Chief Secretary
Govt of Tamil Nadu
Chennai - 600009
Fax: 044-25672304

Shri Jawed Usmani
Chief Secretary
Govt of Uttar Pradesh
Lal Bahadur Shastri Bhawan
UP Sachivalaya
Lucknow – 226001
Fax: 0522-2239283

Dr. Sanjay Kumar Panda
Chief Secretary
Govt of Tripura,
Agartala - 799901
Fax: 0381-2414013

Shri Sanjay Mitra
Chief Secretary
Govt of West Bengal
Kolkata – 700001
Fax: 033-22144328