

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6549
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2010
ASSISTANCE BY UN AGENCIES
Das Gupta Shri Gurudas;Lingam Shri P.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has written to the States not to directly work with UN or International Agencies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the UN agencies are providing assistance at the State Level, in the field of health and nutrition, violating the Government's directives in this regard;
- (d) if so, the action taken by the Government and the UN Coordinator (India) to ensure implementing the national policy;
- (e) whether there is a suitable mechanism for audit and accountability for addressing such direct interventions and assistance at the State level; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA)

(a) & (b): Yes. As the nodal Department for external multilateral and bilateral assistance, the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) has issued instructions from time to time to the State Governments requesting them not to negotiate any kind of assistance with external agencies without routing the same through the DEA.

(c) & (d): A recent instance of the violation of Government's directives concerned the supply to some State Governments of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) called plumpy nut by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

UNICEF was requested by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the nodal Ministry for UNICEF, to discontinue the use of RUTF, to ship it out and to restore funds of equivalent value to the GOI-UNICEF Country Programme. UNICEF were also advised to adhere to the provisions of GOI-UNICEF Country Plan.

UNICEF has confirmed to the nodal Ministry its compliance with the Government's directives.

(e) & (f): Concerned nodal Ministries of the Government are responsible for ensuring the observance by international organizations of the Agreements/MoUs which govern their operations in India.