No. 15/5/2015-ND TECH
Government of India
Ministry of Women and Child Development

Shastri Bhawan,
New Delhi – 1

Dated: 28th August, 2017

To,

Principal Secretaries/Secretaries, Department of Women & Child Development/Social Welfare (dealing with ICDS) of all States/UTs

Subject: Use of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) for management of children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) – reg.

Sir/Madam,

I am to refer to the issue of use of Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) for management of children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) raised by various States/UTs at the meetings/conferences held by this Ministry from time to time.

2. In this regard, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare vide their letter No. Z-28020/103/2004-CH, dated 25.02.2009 has clarified that the use of RUTF for management of malnutrition is not an accepted policy of the Government of India. A copy of the aforesaid letter is enclosed for compliance.

3. It is further informed that enough evidence is not available for the use of RUTF vis a vis other interventions for the management of SAM. Concerns have also been raised that the use of RUTF may replace nutritional best practices and family foods that children would normally be eating, impacting negatively on continued breastfeeding in children older than 6 months and undermine the importance of providing nutrition counselling for improved infant and young child feeding practices and sustainable solutions for improving food availability and dietary diversity.

5. In view of the above, the instructions issued by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, as mentioned in para 2 above, regarding the use of RUTF in the management of SAM children should be strictly complied with.

Encl: As above.

Yours faithfully,

(Manoj Kumar Singh)
Director

Copy to: Director, Department of Women & Child Development/Social Welfare (dealing with ICDS) of all States/UTs.
OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Revised Health and Nutrition Work Plan-2009 of UNICEF.

The undersigned is directed to state that:

1. The technical activities presented in the Health and Nutrition Work Plans are in line with those of MoHFW except for the Emergency Nutrition Activity, Ready To Use/Therapeutic Foods/Sprinklers are not an accepted policy of MoHFW. The activity of Emergency Nutrition may kindly be deleted from the Work Plan.

2. List of activities to be carried out under Health and Nutrition may be re-aligned in a tabular form with columns on Ministry to be supported, Budget Allocations state wise.

This issues with the approval of Ms. Anshuma Johri, Joint Secretary.

(Dr. Sangeeta Saxena)
Assistant Commissioner (Child Health)
Tele: 23061218

The Deputy Representative, Programme,
UNICEF,
73-Lodhi Estate,
New Delhi.

V/c to Ministry of Women and Child Development (Mrs. Leelaben Kakkar, Joint Secretary), Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001