



**OFFICE OF THE MISSION DIRECTOR,
NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION, ASSAM**
Saikia Commercial Complex, Christian Basti, Sri Nagar G.S. Road, Guwahati-5
Website : www.nrhmassam.in E_mail ID : misnrhm.assam@gmail.com

No. NHM/PROC/NUTR-SUP/2993/2014-15/PART-B/ 17673

Date: 01/12/15

From: BCC Expert & PRO,
NHM, Assam

To: The Editor,
The Sentinel, Assam

Sub: Rejoinder to the news item "Was the tender tailor-made to favour one party?"
published in your esteemed daily on 26th November, 2015

Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above, I am directed to enclose herewith a rejoinder to the news item "Was the tender tailor-made to favour one party?" published in The Sentinel on 26th November, 2015.

You are requested to publish the rejoinder at a prominent place in your esteemed daily. This is for your information and necessary action please.

Encl.: As stated above

Yours faithfully,

(Sikha Borthakur)

BCC Expert & PRO,

National Health Mission, Assam

Memo No. NHM/PROC/NUTR-SUP/2993/2014-15/PART-B/ 17674-80 Date: 01/12/2015

Copy to:

1. The PS to the Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Assam for kind appraisal of the Hon'ble Minister.
2. The PS to the Additional Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Health & Family Welfare Department, Dispur, Assam for favour of kind information.
3. The Mission Director, NHM, Assam for favour of kind information.
4. The Secretary to the Govt. of Assam (J.B.), Health & Family Welfare Department for favour of kind information.
5. The Secretary to the Govt. of Assam (G.B.), Health & Family Welfare Department for favour of kind information.
6. The Procurement Expert, NHM, Assam for information.
7. Office copy.

(Sikha Borthakur)

BCC Expert & PRO,

National Health Mission, Assam

**REJOINDER TO THE REBUTTAL OF "THE SENTINEL" DATED 26-11-2015 REGARDING PROCUREMENT
OF NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENT BY NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION (NHM), ASSAM**

National Health Mission (NHM), Assam would like to provide the following clarifications on the rebuttal to the rejoinder of NHM Assam published in "The Sentinel" dated 26-11-2015 under the headlines "was the tender tailor-made to favour one party?"

- 01) It is reiterated that the Mission firmly believes that the vast majority of these women, who are poor and economically disadvantaged, deserve a product of excellent market standing with wide acceptance throughout the country and there can be no compromise on such standards. In addition to essential documents like GMP Certificate, ISO Certificate and FSSAI License which are to be furnished by the bidders participating in the open competitive bidding process for supply of Nutritional Supplement, the turnover criteria have been prescribed to assess credentials of manufacturers in terms of financial standing and very importantly consumer acceptance and reach of the product offered for supply, which is an edible item. In the open competitive bidding, five numbers of bids were received and evaluated.
- 02) In the given category of food item, consumer acceptance shall be given primacy more so when it is meant for an underprivileged section of society.
- 03) It is again clarified that CVC guidelines of 17-12-2002 does not specify any percentage for fixing turnover in respect of store/purchase contracts.
- 04) Regarding the difference in turnover criteria for Nutritional Supplements and Drugs it would suffice to state that they are two different and distinct product categories and are to be treated differently with variations in tender terms and conditions.
- 05) It is once again clarified that the tender specified a minimum shelf life of 9 months and thus there was no restriction of shelf life being more than 9 months.
- 06) The eligibility conditions incorporated in the tender have been duly approved by competent authority and were aimed at attracting bidders capable of offering an excellent product of national standing which is to be provided free of cost to a weaker and underprivileged section of society.
- 07) With regard to the contention that the same firm is getting the contract for supply of Nutritional Supplement since the last four years, it is to be mentioned that the selection of a firm for supply has been done through an open competitive bidding process and there has not been any violation of the bidding process as eligibility conditions approved by competent authority and have been clearly specified in the bid document. There is also no question of favouring any single firm.

- 08) Regarding fat content in Nutritional Supplement it is clarified that fat content of 10-13 gm per 100 gm was amended to 1.0-1.3 gm per 100 gm through a corrigendum. The amendment did not require submission of any additional document or testimonial by prospective bidders and therefore there is no question of prohibiting any bidder from participating in the tender. In a previous tender issued during the year 2012, the technical specifications were framed by a technical committee on 22-11-2011 wherein fat content was indicated as 10-13 gm per 100 gm through a typographical error of moving a decimal point, but supplies were made at that time with the correct composition.
- 09) The complaint of one Shri Piklu Kumar Neogi forwarded to NHM Assam by the Senior Statistical Officer (NRHM-III) has already been attended to.


Mission Director
National Health Mission, Assam