

Dr. V. G. Rao, A. D (ICMR) stated that the survey conducted by ICMR reveals that the primitive tribes are being supplied the food items containing excess protein. He stated that the general health condition of adults found good while the women and children are malnourished and vitamin deficient. According to him it could be due to disproportionate dietary intake. He informed that the actual report would be submitted after conducting fresh diet survey. He suggested that the supplementary food item i.e. egg are not required for all but may be given to children and pregnant women, however, other items like Moong Dal, Jaggery, Green leafy vegetables may be given to all.

It was decided in the meeting that the additional supplementary items as recommended by the DHS may be started immediately and after six months, the matter may be reviewed to find out as to whether the same is to be continued. Regarding the change in quantity of cereals the DHS and the Assistant Director (ICMR) advised that the quantity of rice may be increased from 5 Kg to 9 Kg and the quantity of wheat flour may be reduced to 5 Kg from 9 Kg and the quantity of these supplied to the children may also be change accordingly as recommended by Dr. J. C. Das, Senior Medical Officer (Nutrition). Regarding supply of par boiled rice in free ration in place of polished rice it was brought to the notice of the members that the same is not supplied by Civil Supply Department and as such the same cannot be supplied regularly. The DHS and A. D. (ICMR) opined that since additional supplementary food items rich in vitamins are being included the supply of polished rice may be continued. It is also suggested that tobacco should not be included in free ration. It is brought to the notice of the members in the meeting that there is a poultry farm at Strait Island and the Great Andamanese are getting the eggs, however, the vegetables may be supplied from Port Blair till vegetables are grown at Strait Island. regarding Dugong Creek till the poultry birds are provided to the Onges by Directorate of AH & VS,

Action by AAJVS, DHS, ICMR, Director, AH & VS