

**Right to Food: Summary of existing entitlements under Supreme Court Orders  
(in the case PUCL vs. Union of India and Ors. CWP 196/2001)**

**1. Integrated Child Development Services**

- There must be an Anganwadi in every settlement, with priority to SC/ST habitations and urban slums, and a provision for ‘Anganwadi on demand’ where a settlement has at least 40 children under six but no Anganwadi.
- All ICDS beneficiaries are entitled to supplementary nutrition for 300 days in a year. The supplementary nutrition should meet the following requirements: Each child up to 6 years of age to get 300 calories and 8-10 gms of protein; each adolescent girl, each pregnant woman and each nursing mother to get 500 calories and 20-25 grams of protein; and each malnourished child to get 600 calories and 16-20 grams of protein;
- Contractors should not be used for supply of nutrition in Anganwadis.
- The universalisation of the ICDS involves extending all ICDS services (supplementary nutrition, growth monitoring, nutrition and health education, immunization, referral and pre-school education) to every child under the age of 6, all pregnant women and lactating mothers and all adolescent girls.

**2. Mid Day Meal Scheme**

- Every child in every government and government assisted primary schools is entitled to a cooked mid day meal with a minimum content of 300 calories and 8-12 grams of protein each day of school for a minimum of 200 days.
- In drought-affected areas, children are entitled to mid-day meals even during summer vacations.

**2. Targeted Public Distribution System**

- All BPL families are entitled to 35kgs of grain per month
- BPL households should be permitted to buy the ration in instalments.
- All ration shops should be open regularly

**3. Antyodaya Anna Yojana:** The following “priority groups” are entitled to Antyodaya cards: (1) Aged, infirm, disabled, destitute men and women, pregnant and lactating women, destitute women; (2) widows and other single women with no regular support; (3) old persons (aged 60 or above) with no regular support and no assured means of subsistence; (4) households with a disabled adult and assured means of subsistence; (5) households where due to old age, lack of physical or mental fitness, social customs, need to care for a disabled, or other reasons, no adult member is available to engage in gainful employment outside the house; and (6) primitive tribes.

**4. National Old Age Pension Scheme:** Pensions should be paid to eligible persons regularly every month. The current scheme covers all BPL persons above 65 years, with a pension of Rs. 400 per month.

**5. National Maternity Benefit Scheme:** All BPL pregnant women are entitled to a cash benefit of Rs. 500 irrespective of place of birth, age of mother and number of children.

**6. National Family Benefit Scheme:** BPL families are entitled to be paid Rs 10,000 within four weeks through the local sarpanch when the breadwinner dies.

**7. Accountability to Gram Sabhas:** Gram Sabhas are entitled to conduct a social audit into all food-related schemes and to report all instances of misuse of funds to the respective implementing authorities, who shall on receipt of such complaints, investigate and take appropriate action in accordance with law.

**8. Access to information:** Gram Sabhas are empowered to monitor the implementation of food-related schemes and have access to relevant information, e.g. relating to selection of beneficiaries and the disbursement of benefits.

**9. Schemes not to be discontinued:** The Supreme Court has also directed that no scheme covered by these orders shall be discontinued or restricted in any way without the prior approval of the Court.