

children studying in government primary and middle schools would get packaged fortified milk along with mid-day meal.

By giving 200 ml of flavoured milk before mid-day meal to school students, the scheme aims at adding nutritional value to the food on offer for the kids. In the first phase, nearly 10,000 students from 28 schools situated close to the national and state highway in Latehar district will get chilled milk with different flavours on week days. The school children of other districts would also be covered under the scheme soon.

Foundation for Nutrition, a National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) initiative, has been entrusted with the task of delivering milk, while the Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC) is meeting the cost on this ambitious project from their corporate social responsibility (CSR) fund.

State government has also focused on improving health of people, particularly of women. The government recently launched double fortified salt (DFS) to fight against anemia, thyroid and other

## NUTRITIONAL FOOD FOR CHILDREN, WOMEN

The government has decided to celebrate 2018 as Nirogi Baal Varsh (Healthy Children Year). Jharkhand children mainly suffer from malnutrition. In a bid to eliminate the curse of malnutrition, chief minister Raghubar Das on November 21 launched 'Gift Milk' scheme, an initiative under which



CM launches fortified milk for school children

diseases.

State food and public distribution department distributes DFS at Re 1 to each household per month through the shops under public distribution system (PDS).

The DFS salt has mixed content of iodine and iron. Jharkhand people, mostly women, suffer from iron deficiency. The DFS salt will help fight against anemia. As per the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-III), Jharkhand has the highest number of anaemic women in the country with 70% women between the age group of 15 and 49 are anaemic.

More than 58 lakh ration card holders of the state will be benefited with the scheme. A kilogram of DFS is given per family per month at Re 1 while state purchases it over Rs 7 per kg from Gujrat.

## Poverty Alleviation Initiatives

Chief minister Raghubar Das has initiated several small and simple schemes to improve rural economy and boost employment.

**Egg distribution in Mid-day meal:** As government decided to distribute eggs twice a week to students of government schools under mid-day meal scheme, it increased egg requirements to 3.60 crore eggs per month. The chief minister directed the requirement should be fulfilled by local Panchayats. Over 2200 panchayats have been offered facilities for poultry rearing. According to the plan envisaged by the state government, women self-help groups at the panchayat level have been mapped with government schools and asked to meet the supply of daily egg requirements. This would help provide a ready-made market to women SHGs and in turn

would be provided with poultry for free by the state government to encourage backyard poultry farming

**Free cows to poor women:** Das government is distributing two cows to women member of identified BPL families or self-help groups on 90% subsidy to give a boost to rural economy. Jharkhand has immense potential in dairy development sector but this sector was not properly explored by past governments. The scheme will not only increase the income of rural women but also replace the low-milk yielding state cows with high-yielding breeds.

Even as the government is giving 90% subsidy on the price of cows, remaining 10% of the cost to be theoretically borne by the beneficiary is being provided by Jharkhand Milk Federation in form of loan. Government has planned to distribute 50,000 milk cattle during the five year period.