

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2103
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2012
HEALTH SCHEME FOR RURAL ADOLESCENTS
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any special scheme for the health of the rural adolescents of both sexes in all the districts of the country including Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY)

(a): Yes. To address to the needs of rural adolescents, the Government has an existing Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health (ARSH) strategy, a component under Adolescent Health component. It focuses on awareness generation programmes and a service delivery mechanism for providing ARSH Services through existing public health system. Under this Programme, State / UTs have to set up Adolescent Friendly Health clinics at District Hospitals, Sub-District Hospitals, Community Health Centres including mobile clinics, develop linkages with Integrated Counselling and Testing Centres (ICTC) and Suraksha Clinics for Counselling and testing for HIV and treatment of RTI/STI cases, clinics to focus on influencing the health seeking behaviour of adolescents and provide services such as Counselling on Sexual Health issues, Nutrition counselling, treatment for RTIs/STIs. IFA tablets and contraceptives.

The School Health Program (SHP) is another existing programme under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and caters to school going children and adolescents in the 6-18 years age group enrolled in Government and Government - aided schools. This programme includes screening, health care and referral when necessary for disease, deficiency and disability. The objective is to address the health needs of children. Identified children, who require further service support, are referred to secondary and tertiary facilities within Public Health Infrastructure.

The Scheme for Promotion of Menstrual Hygiene has been launched as a Central Scheme in November 2011 in 152 districts, on pilot basis, for better health and hygiene for adolescent girls (aged 10 to 19 years) in rural areas, including in 7 districts in Rajasthan.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has also launched the Weekly Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation (WIFS) Programme to meet the challenge of high prevalence (56% - NFHS-III) and incidence of anaemia amongst adolescent girls and boys.

(b): Health is a State subject, and Government of India supports (financially and ; technically) State health programmes without directly implementing them at State level. In addition to State Government budgets, States request for funds under NRHM which is projected in their annual Project Implementation Plans. Allocation of funds is made to States after appraisals. In annual Project Implementation Plans, States include district requirement for calculation of State budget proposal. Similarly, States decide district level allocation as per the decentralized implementation perceived under the National Rural Health Mission to address local needs.

Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health (ARSH) clinics in Rajasthan are located in the 12 High focus districts, the details of which are given as in annexure-I. The State-wise details are at annexure-Ia.

School Health programmes from different states are part of the annual Project Implementation Plan process. The financial allocation and utilization for the School Health Programme in the current FY 2012-13 are as in annexure-II

Scheme for Promotion of Menstrual Hygiene: The scheme aims at ensuring that adolescent girls in the target group have adequate knowledge and information about menstrual hygiene and the use of sanitary napkins, that high quality, safe products are made available to them, and that environmentally safe disposal mechanisms are readily accessible. The scheme has been launched as part of the Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health (ARSH) component under RCH II.

In the first phase, the scheme is expected to cover approximately 25% of the country's adolescent girl population (aged 10 to 19 years), i.e., 1.5 crore girls in 152 districts across 20 States. Out of these, supply of sanitary napkins in 107 districts was envisaged initially in a Central supply mode, wherein sanitary napkins were to be supplied by the Government of India. The supply of sanitary napkins in the remaining 45 districts was envisaged in a Self Help Group (SHG) mode, wherein SHGs were to manufacture the sanitary napkins that are to be sold to adolescent girls. Procurement of sanitary napkins, whether through Central supply by the Government of India, or through SHGs, has to be done at a fixed price of Rs. 7.50/- per pack of six sanitary napkins. The sanitary napkins are provided under NRHM's brand, 'Freedays'. These napkins are being sold to adolescent girls at the rate of Rs. 6 per pack of six napkins by Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs). From out of the sale proceeds, the ASHA gets an incentive

amount of Re. 1 per pack, besides getting a free pack of sanitary napkins per month and the balance Rs 5 is to be deposited in the State/district treasury. The scheme has taken off in 107 districts in the 17 States that are being supplied sanitary napkins through Central procurement.

Supply of sanitary napkins in 107 districts initially is being done in a Central supply mode, wherein sanitary napkins are being supplied by the Government of India. The supply of sanitary napkins in the remaining 45 districts is to be done through Self Help Groups (SHG), wherein SHGs are to manufacture the sanitary napkins that are to be sold to adolescent girls. District-wise and State-wise details as in annexure-III

Weekly Iron Folic Acid Supplementation program is evidence based programmatic response to the prevailing anaemia situation amongst adolescent girls and boys through supervised weekly ingestion of IFA supplementation and biannual helminth control. The programme, implemented across the country both (rural and urban areas) will cover 12.72 Crores adolescents. 5.74 Crore girls and boys enrolled in class VI-XII of government/ government aided and municipal school will be reached through the platform of Schools and 6.97 Crores out of school girls through the platform of Anganwadi Kendras. The programme is being implemented in 579 districts across all States and UTs (rollout is pan India across all states barring Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh where it is being implemented in 5 and 20 districts respectively). A total of approximately INR 120 Crore has been approved for implementation of WIFS for the year 2012-13. State wise data on beneficiaries as in annexure-IV.