

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2435
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2014
QUALITY OF SANITARY NAPKINS
Gandhi Dr. Dharam Vira

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Accredited Social Health Activities (ASHA) are facing logistic problems of storage and distribution of sanitary napkins under the Scheme for Promotion of Menstrual Hygiene among adolescent girls in rural areas;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has taken any measures to enhance implementation and solve logistic challenges;
- (c) whether any mechanism has been put in place to check quality and production of sanitary napkins under the scheme;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the measures taken or being taken by the Government to ensure quality and production in line with the Bureau of Industrial Standards?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a): Barring a few instances in some districts, there are no major problems related to storage and distribution of sanitary napkins under the Scheme for Promotion of Menstrual Hygiene among adolescent girls in rural areas.

(b) to (e): Under the National Health Mission within the umbrella of the Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram, the Government of India has taken the following key measures to enhance implementation and address the challenges of logistics faced under the Scheme for Promotion of Menstrual Hygiene among adolescent girls in rural areas:

1. Greater convergence between Ministries of Health , Human Resource Development and Woman & Child Development at Government of India level to facilitate coordination at the State levels .
2. Financial resources are provided to the States for the following:-

Procurement of sanitary napkins at State level by competitive bidding # Capacity building of service providers, ASHAs , Anganwadi Workers and Supervisors # Regular orientation of functionaries of other related departments # Mobilization of the beneficiaries on a regular basis

Presently Sanitary Napkins are being procured and distributed by HLL Lifecare Ltd., a Public Sector Unit, under the oversight of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare . For quality assurance, provision has been made for a pre-despatch inspection at the company's premises and testing of each batch by NABL approved Laboratory as per guidelines of the Bureau of Industrial Standards.