

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3435
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2014
SCHEME FOR PROMOTION OF MENSTRUAL HYGIENE
Mahadik Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao

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

- (a) whether the number of women using sanitary napkins in the country is very low resulting in reproductive tract infection and cervical cancer among them and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (b) the salient features and present status of the scheme for Promotion of Menstrual Hygiene along with the districts covered and the funds allocated thereunder during the 12th Five Year Plan, year and State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has made/ proposes to make any assessment of the impact of the aforesaid scheme and if so, the details and the outcome thereof along with the number of girls benefited there from since its inception, State/UT-wise;
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to implement the aforesaid scheme in all the districts across the country as well as to create awareness about menstrual hygiene among girls/women particularly those living in the rural and remote areas of the country; and
- (e) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to ensure quality and production of sanitary napkins in line with the Bureau of Indian Standards?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)

(a): The data regarding use of sanitary napkins by women in India has not been captured by National level Surveys like NFHS, DLHS.

Poor menstrual hygiene may lead to reproductive tract infections however there is no direct association between poor menstrual hygiene and development of cervical cancer. Small scale studies have been carried out in India but no clear correlation has been proved between low use of sanitary napkins and cervical cancer.

(b): The salient features of the scheme are:

- # To increase awareness among adolescent girls on Menstrual Hygiene
- # To increase access to and use of high quality sanitary napkins to adolescent girls in rural areas.
- # To ensure safe disposal of Sanitary Napkins in an environmentally friendly manner.

Currently GOI is supplying sanitary napkins in 112 districts of 17 States. The status of Scheme for Promotion of Menstrual Hygiene is available at Annexure A.

(c): No.

- (d): # At present 112 districts are being covered by Government of India supply.
Besides this, 11 states have proposed expansion of this scheme in 49 more districts in the year 2014-15. (Please refer to Annexure B). Required funds have been provided to the States under the National Health Mission for decentralised procurement of napkins.
Communication material including Audio, Video material, Hoardings, Posters, Leaflets have been developed to promote good menstrual hygiene practices and end the cultural taboos associated with it.
ASHAs are incentivized to hold monthly meeting with adolescent girls to discuss issues related to menstrual hygiene.

(e): The Bureau of Indian Standards was taken as a base for developing specifications of the sanitary napkins. The specifications were further improved by the technical team constituted under MoHFW prior to launch of the Menstrual Hygiene Scheme.