

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1358
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2014
PROMOTION OF MENSTRUAL HYGIENE
Singh Prof. Sadhu

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

- (a) the salient features of the scheme for Promotion of Menstrual Hygiene in the country;
- (b) whether the Government has made any assessment of the impact of the said scheme;
- (c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof along with the number of girls benefited from the scheme since its inception, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether the said scheme is lagging behind the target in its objective and if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor, State/UT-wise;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to implement the scheme in all the districts in the country and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for effective implementation of the said scheme and installation of incinerators or provide deep-pit burials for safe disposal of sanitary napkins in schools across the country?

Answer

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

(a): The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has introduced a scheme for promotion of menstrual hygiene among rural adolescent girls in the age group of 10-19 in the year 2011. The scheme is being implemented in 115 districts across 17 States in the country. Key activities under this scheme include the following:-

Community based Health education and outreach in the target population to promote menstrual health

Regular availability of Sanitary Napkins to the adolescent girls.

Training of ASHAs and nodal teachers in Menstrual Health

Safe disposal of Sanitary Napkins

(b): No.

(c): Not applicable.

(d): Till date, out of 82144303 packs of Sanitary Napkins supplied, 50.7 % have been utilized. However, the scheme is lagging behind the target in some States.

The main reasons for this lag are:-

Adequate uptake requires behaviour change amongst the beneficiaries which requires longer time to have the desired effect.

Quality issues have been reported in some cases

Lack of orientation/ initiative by ASHA/AWW
State/UT-wise percentage of uptake enclosed as Annexure.

(e): The States have been asked to extend the scheme to the districts beyond currently implementing districts, by planning and obtaining funds through National Health Mission State PIP, at a price obtained through competitive bidding.

(f): # ASHAs are being reoriented on the scheme

Schools, boarding schools & Anganwadi Centres are also being utilized as the platform to reach out to the adolescent girls

Supply chain management is being strengthened

IEC and SBCC activities are being strengthened

Requisite guidelines for the safe disposal of napkins have been shared with the States