

Sixteenth Loksabha

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title: Need to withdraw the GST on sanitary napkins to make way for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL (JAYANAGAR): Madam, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak during the 'Zero Hour'.

I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that menstruating adolescent girls do not feel comfortable and shy away from schools during their periods. Specially the girls of rural and sub-urban areas mainly use home-made napkins which are even more uncomfortable and inconvenient to lead a normal social life. Most of the MPs of Trinamool Congress are providing napkin vending machines and incinerator machine to all girls and educational institutions from our MPLAD funds to ensure menstrual hygiene as well as to increase the percentage of attendance of girl students. This work is a part of the Nirman Bangla Abhiyan. But imposition of 12 per cent GST on sanitary napkins will become a major roadblock in our efforts.

This tax is a tax on our necessity. This is a tax on the right of basic health care. Women from economically weaker sections have been severely affected by this decision and women of Maharashtra have been on hunger strike against this regressive decision of the Government. Their voices remain unheard.

So, I request the hon. Finance Minister through you to think about this issue and withdraw the tax on sanitary napkins to make way for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan to become successful.

HON. SPEAKER:

Shrimati Arpita Ghosh,

Dr. Mamta Sanghamita and

*m04 Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati Pratima Mondal.