

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3188  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2019**

**MENSTRUAL HEALTH**

**3188. SHRI KAUSHAL KISHORE:  
SHRI UPENDRA SINGH RAWAT:**

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

- (a) whether any steps have been taken by the Government towards improvement in the menstrual health of women in rural areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether there is any proposal to involve NGOs and other private organizations working in this direction and to provide them encouragement and support from the Government in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a) to (c): Yes. To improve the menstrual health among adolescent girls, Government of India is supporting the States/UTs through National Health Mission in their Program Implementation Plans for decentralized procurement of Sanitary napkins packs. The scheme encompasses the following:

- Increasing awareness among adolescent girls on menstrual hygiene
- Improving access to and use of high quality sanitary napkins by adolescent girls residing in rural areas
- Scheme is also being implemented in the urban areas with roll out in selected cities of 15 States in the first phase.
- Ensuring safe disposal of sanitary napkins in an environmentally friendly manner.

- Provision of funds to ASHAs to hold monthly meetings with adolescents to discuss issues related to menstrual hygiene.

(d) & (e): No. Government of India is providing NHM funds to States/UTs through Program Implementation Plans for decentralized procurement of Sanitary napkins and IEC-BCC activities. Health being a State subject, involvement of NGOs or any private organization to support the activities hence remains the decision of the State/UTs.

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