

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1529
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH DECEMBER, 2022**

TOXIC CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES FOUND IN SANITARY PADS

1529 DR. AMEE YAJNIK:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that a new study has found that sanitary pads widely available in the country contain cancer-causing pollutants which include toxic chemicals like carcinogens, reproductive toxins, endocrine disruptors;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the composition, manufacture and use of sanitary pads are not governed by any specific regulation in the country but are governed by BIS standards which do not contain anything specific on chemicals; and
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor, and the action taken by Government against such sanitary pad manufacturers?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a) to (c): An agency has reported the presence of harmful chemicals in sanitary pads sold in India. However, no scientific reports of this study from India has been published in any peer- reviewed scientific journal. Further, review of global scientific literature reveals insufficient evidence to prove any correlation between use of sanitary pads by women and adverse health outcome.

As informed, to ensure safety of products, the Indian standards, published by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) under Department of Consumer Affairs on sanitary napkins, include the requirement of hygiene testing which includes testing of Bacterial and Fungal Bioburden and test for common skin pathogen — Staphylococcus Aureus. The Biocompatibility Evaluation covering Cytotoxicity, Irritation and Skin Sensitization tests are also included to ensure that raw material used for manufacturing the final product are safe for user based on its known toxicological characteristics at intended use.
