

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1278
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2025

**REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS OF FEMALE MIGRANT SUGARCANE
WORKERS**

1278. DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of Women and Child Development be pleased to state:

- (a) whether migrant women from Beed district are being advised or pressurised to undergo hysterectomy to avoid menstruation during sugarcane harvesting, and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether economic coercion influences such decisions, and what steps have been taken to ensure labour protections;
- (c) whether health rights awareness campaigns and mobile health services have been launched, and if so, how many women have benefited; and
- (d) whether joint grievance redressal cells are being considered, and if so, their proposed timeline and structure?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SAVITRI THAKUR)

(a) & (b) There are some media reports and research studies indicating that certain women sugarcane workers, particularly from Beed district of Maharashtra, have undergone hysterectomies. However, health being a State subject under seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, such incidents primarily fall under the purview of the State Government. The Government of Maharashtra has informed that all the hysterectomy surgeries in Beed district amongst female sugarcane labourers are monitored. The hysterectomy surgeries are

being done after mandatory pre-approval from the District Civil Surgeon, Beed and Medical Superintendent of respective areas, in both government and private facilities. Surgeries are allowed only after detailed gynaecological examination and clinical justification such as uterine fibroids or abnormal bleeding. In the last two harvest seasons from the year 2022 to March 2025, a total of 211 hysterectomies were performed in Beed District with due medical indications and prior approval. The year wise list is at **Annexure**.

(c) & (d) The Government of Maharashtra has regularly conducted Health rights awareness campaigns at village and PHC levels to educate women on reproductive health, risks of unnecessary hysterectomy surgeries, menstrual hygiene and family planning methods. Also, Health check-ups were organised for sugarcane labourers twice a year before migration (August–October) and after return from migration (March–May). Which includes Screening for anaemia, reproductive tract infections, menstrual disorders, non-communicable diseases, and cervical cancer (Pap smear and biopsy where indicated). Counselling and treatment as per Standard Treatment Protocols has been provided. Women's Health Task Force has been established at the village level for continuous health education and grievance handling. A total of 50,158 female migrant sugarcane workers in Beed district have availed benefits under the health check-up initiative conducted during the post-harvest period of the sugarcane season, i.e., from March 2025 to May 2025, as a result of the measures undertaken.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) and (b) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question no. 1278 to be answered on 30.07.2025 regarding 'Reproductive Health Rights of Female Migrant Sugarcane Workers'.

Year wise details of women who underwent hysterectomy surgeries in Beed District

Sr. no	Year	Number of women who underwent hysterectomy
1	2022	49
2	2023	89
3	2024	55
4	2025	18
Total		211
