

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2061
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.08.2026

SANITARY NAPKIN VENDING MACHINE UNDER MISSION SHAKTI

2061. DR. JYOTI NAGNATH WAGHMARE:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of sanitary napkin vending machines and eco-friendly incinerators installed under 'Mission Shakti' in women-dominated public places, Anganwadi centres and women's hostels located in the 'Aspirational Blocks' of Maharashtra identified by NITI Aayog; and
- (b) the positive improvements that have been seen in the retention rate and health safety of working women and girl students at their workplaces/study places due to these modern infrastructure facilities?

ANSWER

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

(a) The Government gives utmost priority to the safety, security and empowerment of women in the country. Government has adopted multi-pronged approach to address the needs of women on a life-cycle continuum basis for their educational, social, economic and political empowerment so that they become equal partners in the fast paced process of sustainable national development. This 'Women led development' is essential for realising the goal of a developed India, or 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the country for the welfare of women and children, which are placed under three verticals, viz. (1) Mission Shakti, for safety, protection and empowerment of women; (2) Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0 for improving nutrition & health indicators in the country; and (3) Mission Vatsalya, for protection and welfare of children in difficult circumstances.

The 'Mission Shakti' aims at strengthening interventions for women safety, security and empowerment. Mission Shakti comprises of two sub-schemes 'Sambal' and 'Samarthya' for safety and security of women and empowerment of women respectively.

Under the 'Shakti Sadan Scheme' under Mission Shakti, financial assistance of ₹5,300 per month per resident is provided towards recurring expenditure for essential services and support, including food, clothing, medical care, sanitary napkins, and other basic necessities of the residents. In addition to this, an amount of Rs. 500 per month per resident is deposited in the bank account of the resident, which cannot be withdrawn by the account holders during their stay in the home.

Under the Sakhi Niwas Scheme of Mission Shakti, a Hostel Management Committee (HMC) is constituted for the monitoring and management of the hostel. The HMC oversees the day-to-day functioning of the hostel and submits its recommendations and quarterly reports to the District Administration concerned.

The Government launched the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) with an objective to make quality generic medicines available at affordable prices to all. Under the scheme, dedicated outlets known as Jan Aushadhi Kendras (JAKs) are opened across the country to provide medicines at 50%–80% cheaper rates than those of branded medicines. A total of 20,149 JAKs have been opened across the country till 30.06.2026.

To promote menstrual hygiene, Jan Aushadhi Suvidha Oxy-Biodegradable Sanitary Napkin have been made available at Rs. 1.00 per pad since 27th August 2019. Since their launch and up to 30.06.2026, about 108.24 crore sanitary napkins have been sold through more than 20,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras across the country.

(b) The retention rate of girls in school as per the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education is as given below:

Girls Total Enrolment			Girls Retention Rate							
	(Pre-Primary to Higher Secondary)		2024-25				2025-26			
	2024-25	2025-26	Primary (1 to 5)	Elementary (1 to 8)	Secondary (1 to 10)	Higher Secondary (1 to 12)	Primary (1 to 5)	Elementary (1 to 8)	Secondary (1 to 10)	Higher Secondary (1 to 12)
Maharashtra	10136933	10317266	100.0	92.5	86.1	68.2	99.8	93.6	88.3	70.8
National	119334162	119630456	93.4	84.2	64.2	49.6	92.2	85.1	71.9	55.0
Source: UDISE+										
