

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4541
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19TH JULY, 2019**

ORGANIC SANITARY NAPKINS

4541. SHRI HIBI EDEN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has considered the substitution of sanitary napkins with more sustainable alternative such as menstruation cups or organic sanitary napkins, if so the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has formulated plans to distribute free sanitary napkins in public bathrooms and schools, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there exists fund allocation for the same, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government plans on conducting awareness programs for the public on sustainable alternatives of menstrual hygiene which is likely to help in reduction of waste disposal; and
- (e) if so, the detail thereof?

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

(a) to (c): Government of India is supporting States/UTs for the implementation of Menstrual Hygiene Scheme for Adolescent Girls (aged 10-19 years) as per proposals received from the States/UTs in their Program Implementation Plans.

Government of India is aware of the newer products available in the market. Department of Health Research has been requested to carry out research studies to look into the newer methods namely menstrual cups, reusable and washable sanitary napkins and bio-degradable napkins for their safety, acceptability, affordability and feasibility in public health programme setting.

Under Samagra Shiksha intervention Special Project there is provision of installation of sanitary pad vending machines and incinerators in Government Secondary schools, effective from 2018-19. States specific projects are sanctioned by Project Approval Board as per the Annual Work Plans proposed by States/UTs.

In 2018-19, funds amounting to Rs 81.60 lakh were allocated for sanitary pad vending machines and incinerators at Secondary Schools.

(d) & (e): Under the Menstrual Hygiene Scheme, a range of IEC material has been developed around maintenance of good menstrual health, including safe disposal of sanitary napkins in an environmentally friendly manner. There is provision of funds to ASHAs to hold monthly meetings with adolescents to discuss issues related to menstrual hygiene including safe disposal.