

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

**LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. \*48  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09th DECEMBER, 2022**

**HARMFUL CHEMICALS IN SANITARY NAPKINS**

**48\* SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of a study that has detected the presence of harmful chemicals (such as Phthalates and Volatile Organic Compounds-VOCs) in both organic and inorganic sanitary napkins/pads sold across the Indian market which can cause cancer and infertility;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has examined/proposes to examine the above study in order to ascertain the scientific veracity of the issues therein; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
(DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)**

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 48\* FOR 9<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2022**

(a) to (d): Some agencies have reported the presence of harmful chemicals in sanitary pads sold in India. However, no scientific reports of these studies from India have 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 presence of phthalate or Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) in their blood and adverse health outcome.

Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) under Department of Consumer Affairs has already published the Indian Standards on sanitary napkins. Further, as informed by BIS, the standardization in the field of Menstrual Products (sanitary pad) is undertaken by a Technical Textiles for Medtech Applications Sectional Committee.

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