

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 676**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024/ MAGHA 17, 1945 (SAKA)**

**SANITARY PRODUCTS FOR FEMALE PRISON INMATES**

**676. SHRIMATI SARMISTHA SETHI:**

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :**

**(a) whether the Government is aware of poor access to sanitary products for female prison inmates;**

**(b) if so, whether the Government has initiated any action so the authorities responsible meet the required standards/guidelines issued for the same; and**

**(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
(SHRI AJAY KUMAR MISHRA)**

**(a) to (c): 'Prisons'/'persons detained therein' is a "State List" subject under Entry 4 of List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Administration and management of prisons and prisoners is the responsibility of respective State Governments/Union Territories (UTs) who are competent to take appropriate steps to ensure that sanitary pads/napkins are made available to the female inmates. A comprehensive Model Prison Manual 2016 was shared by this Ministry with all States and Union Territories in the year 2016. The Manual has a dedicated chapter on**

**'Women Prisoners', which provides that sterilised sanitary pads/napkins should be issued to women prison inmates for use during menstruation as per their requirement. Ministry of Home Affairs had also forwarded a report titled 'Women in Prisons', received from the Ministry of Women and Child Development, to all States and UTs for implementation of the suggestions contained in the report. The Report provides that sterilized sanitary pads should be issued free of cost to women prisoners as per their requirement.**

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