

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2244
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10th DECEMBER 2021**

MENSTRUAL HEALTH

**2244- SHRI K. NAVASKANI
SHRI JAYANT SINHA**

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

- (a) Whether any steps taken by the Government towards improvement in menstrual health during the last three years;
- (b) If so, the details thereof and if not the reasons thereof
- (c) The details of the programme being implemented by the Government for education to destigmatize menstrual hygiene
- (d) The steps taken by the Government to ensure accessibility of the menstrual products to girls and women; and
- (e) Total proportion of sanitary products distributed through ASHA workers , State wise?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a) to (c): Yes, the Government has taken steady steps towards improvement in menstrual health during the last three years.

The Scheme for Promotion of Menstrual Hygiene among adolescent girls in the age group of 10-19 years is implemented by the Government since 2011. The major objectives of the scheme are:

- i) To increase awareness among adolescent girls on Menstrual Hygiene
- ii) To increase access to and use of high quality sanitary napkins by adolescent girls.
- iii) To ensure safe disposal of sanitary napkins in an environmentally friendly manner.

Since 2015-16, the Menstrual Hygiene Scheme is supported by National Health Mission through State Programme Implementation Plan (PIP) route based on the proposals received from the States. States/UTs have decentralized procurement of sanitary napkins for ensuring quality standards.

Communication material targeted at adolescent girls, their gatekeepers, influencers and community at large developed by MoHFW, other partner ministries, States, Development Partners and NGOs is in use to create awareness on healthy practices during menstruation

and to dispel the myths and misconception around it. Capacity building of the health functionaries is also supported to decrease the stigma of menstruation.

Menstrual Hygiene Scheme covered adolescent girls in 21 States/UTs with provision of Rs. 208 Crore to the States under NHM for decentralized procurement of sanitary napkins in the past three years. Total 1.14 Cr girls have received sanitary napkins during Apr – Sept 2021(HMIS)

The National Family Health Survey (NFHS5) carried out in 2019-21 as compared to NFHS 4 (2015-16) has shown a marked improvement in access to safe menstrual hygiene products for women aged 15-24 years, rising to 77.3% as compared to 57.6% earlier.

- (d) Government took steps to ensure accessibility of menstrual products by the adolescent girls. Under the scheme a pack of sanitary napkins are being provided to adolescent girls by the Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA). For this the ASHA herself receives pack for her own use. Government also provides budget to the States/UTs for Orientation of field level health workers and IEC activities for menstrual hygiene
- (e) Total number of adolescent girls provided sanitary napkins by ASHAs across the States and UTs is placed in the Annexure.

State/UT wise total number of adolescent girls provided sanitary napkins by ASHAs

S. No	State/ UT	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22 (till 30th Nov 2021)
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	21	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	132535	878475	2432641
3	Arunachal Pradesh	14	0	0
4	Assam	232755	20465	16660
5	Bihar	10242	152	0
6	Chandigarh	0	0	0
7	Chhattisgarh	0	148	0
8	DNH and DD	184719	0	4920
9	Delhi	260526	1067	0
10	Goa	0	0	0
11	Gujarat	37946	23048	86883
12	Haryana	0	234548	748261
13	Himachal Pradesh	1171903	2968367	1054952
14	Jammu and Kashmir	132793	353858	170063
15	Jharkhand	4021	395291	87453
16	Karnataka	5675344	1282629	55247
17	Kerala	24054	640	275
18	Ladakh	0	0	0
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	106129	172075	10809
21	Maharashtra	2808112	2889292	848781
22	Manipur	0	0	0
23	Meghalaya	0	0	0
24	Mizoram	470	0	0
25	Nagaland	215	0	0
26	Odisha	7644152	5844591	2641707
27	Puducherry	0	0	0
28	Punjab	1629739	373245	136277
29	Rajasthan	9527	2186	192
30	Sikkim	0	0	0
31	Tamil Nadu	15205511	13436774	6443240
32	Telangana	3860	0	67
33	Tripura	43935	2637	154749
34	Uttarakhand	160949	31539	185560
35	Uttar Pradesh	1856623	237964	217623
36	West Bengal	2553337	3628466	2366727
Total		3,98,89,432	3,27,77,457	1,76,63,087

(Source: HMIS)