

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 1755
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.02.2022

SANITARY NAPKIN DISPENSERS

1755 : MS. DIYA KUMARI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated or intends to formulate plans to increase accessibility and affordability of sanitary napkins and if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether the Government is considering to install affordable sanitary napkin dispensers in all public toilets and other accessible spots in order to promote menstrual hygiene and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) & (b): 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 with the objective to increase awareness among adolescent girls on Menstrual Hygiene, to increase access to and use of high quality sanitary napkins by adolescent girls, and to ensure safe disposal of sanitary napkins in an environmentally friendly manner. In addition, since 2015-16, the Menstrual Hygiene Scheme is being supported by the 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. Sanitary napkins are sold to adolescents girls at subsidized rates at village level by the Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA).

Further, under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP), an important step in ensuring the health security for Indian women, Jan Aushadhi Suvridha Oxo-biodegradable Sanitary napkins was launched on 27.08.2019 to be made available at Rs. 1/- per pad only. Jan Aushadhi Suvridha Napkins are available for sale in more than 8000 PMBJP Kendras across the country.

In view of easy availability of affordable and quality Sanitary Napkins, Ministry of Women & Child Development is not considering installation of affordable sanitary napkin dispensers in Public Toilets and other public places.
