

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3469
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.08.2022

Hygiene Related Products

†3469. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a provision of supplying Hygiene related products to women in all the Government schools of the country;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government is providing incentive/subsidy/financial assistance to schools for increasing awareness about menstrual hygiene and hygiene related products and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has given directions to private schools for providing sanitary facilities to girls and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government schools are facing difficulties in procurement and providing sanitary products in schools and if so, the details thereof?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) to (e): Education is a subject in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of schools are under the jurisdiction of the State Government. Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education is implementing a centrally sponsored Integrated Scheme for School Education 'Samagra Shiksha', effective from 2018-19, in coordination with the States and UTs.

Under Samagra Shiksha, there is a provision of Composite School Grant for, inter-alia annual maintenance and repair of existing school buildings, toilets and other facilities, of which minimum of 10% is to be used for activities related to Swachhta Action Plan namely, undertaking maintenance of school facilities including toilets, safe drinking water and for improvement in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) infrastructure, hand washing with soap, operations and maintenance etc.

Further, under Samagra Shiksha, financial support is provided for Special State Specific Projects for varied interventions under equity, including menstrual health and hygiene, for enhancing access, retention, quality and reducing drop-out of girls, by promoting enrolment drives, retention and motivation camps, gender sensitization modules etc. Such projects include life skills, awareness programmes, incinerators, sanitary pad vending machines etc. These projects are sanctioned by the Project Approval Board as per the Annual Work Plans proposed by the State/UT concerned.

In addition, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare supports the States/UTs in implementing the scheme for Promotion of Menstrual Hygiene among adolescent girls in the age group of 10-19 years, living primarily in the rural areas. Under this scheme, sanitary napkins are provided to the adolescent girls in the village by the Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA).

Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation which was merged with Ministry of Jal Shakti in 2019, has developed National Guidelines on Menstrual Hygiene Management with focus on provision of functional toilets, availability of safe water and Menstrual Hygiene Management. Additionally, vide a joint letter of Secretary, DoSEL and Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti dated 08.03.2022, the states have been advised to utilize funds earmarked for Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) and management of menstrual waste under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) Phase-II at village level, for installation or maintenance of incinerators in schools having girls from classes VI to XII and for creating awareness on MHM among adolescent girls and in the society in general.

School Health Programme, under Ayushman Bharat which is a joint collaborative initiative of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and DoSEL, Ministry of Education, a module on 'Growing up Healthy' has been incorporated, which inter-alia includes information on physical challenges during adolescence and attaining puberty.

National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is implementing the Adolescence Education Programme as part of the National Population Education Project. One of the learning outcomes of AEP is to make the learners aware of the concerns of adolescence, i.e. process of growing up during adolescence and to inculcate in them positive attitude regarding these concerns.

Moreover, all States and UTs have been requested to take necessary steps to create awareness amongst adolescent girls in schools about safe usage and benefits of Sanitary Napkins. It has also been communicated that subsidized sanitary napkins are available at the Jan Aushadi Kendras set up by the Ministry of Chemical and Fertilisers, Government of India.
