

**Paucity of Vitamin-D in Indian women**

1544. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the reports on Vitamin-D deficit for women of the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that Vitamin-D deficiency is a major reason of obesity causing arthritis; and

(c) if so, the proposal of Government to support with dietary supplements and reduce risk of developing rheumatoid arthritis in women?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) Nationwide data for vitamin-D deficiency is not available.

(b) and (c) Evidence from studies has suggested that vitamin – D deficiency is associated with increases risk of obesity and osteoarthritis. However, there is inconclusive evidence on the role of vitamin – D supplementation in prevention of rheumatoid arthritis. Consequently, there is no proposal to support dietary supplements for reducing the risk of developing rheumatoid arthritis in women.

However in view of the beneficial effect of calcium and vitamin – D during pregnancy and lactation, free and universal calcium with vitamin – D supplementation is a part of ante-natal and post-natal care provided under National Health Mission.

**Menstrual Hygiene Scheme**

1545. SHRIMATI ROOPA GANGULY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite Menstrual Hygiene Scheme under NRHM, 58 per cent women in the age-group of 15-24 years use locally prepared sanitary napkins;

(b) whether Government has planned for collaboration with NGOs to spread the awareness;

(c) if so, whether it is infrastructure support or financial support; and

(d) if financial, then which are the beneficial NGOs and what has been the impact of it, and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) No. According to the

National Family Health Survey IV (2015–2016), 16 per cent of women aged 15–24 years use locally prepared napkins.

(b) to (d) Health being a State subject, financial and technical assistance is provided to the States and UTs for Menstrual Hygiene Scheme (MHS) as per the proposals received in their Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs). Generating awareness through ASHAs on Menstrual Hygiene is an important component of the programme. There is no specific programme under the scheme to generate awareness through NGOs.

#### **MDRLs in medical colleges in Rajasthan**

1546. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had received proposals from Rajasthan Government to strengthen research in medical colleges and establishment of Multi-Disciplinary Research Laboratories (MDRLs) for Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Kota, Ajmer, Jhalawar and Rajasthan University of Health Services;

(b) if so, the status thereon; and

(c) the details of funds provided to each college?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL): (a) Yes. The State Government of Rajasthan submitted proposals for setting up of Multi-Disciplinary Research Units (MRUs) in the Medical Colleges at Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Kota, Ajmer, Jhalawar and Rajasthan University of Health Services under the scheme of establishment of Multi-Disciplinary Research Units (MRUs).

(b) Multi-Disciplinary Research Units (MRUs) have been approved for Medical Colleges in Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Kota, Ajmer and Rajasthan University of Health Services.

(c) The details of the funds released to the MRUs in the following Medical Colleges are as under.

Name of the Medical College	Total Funds Released (₹ crore)
SMS Medical College, Jaipur	3.65
Dr. SN Medical College, Jodhpur	1.25
SP Medical College, Bikaner	3.99