

When the Parliament was not in session and the President was satisfied that circumstances existed which rendered it necessary for him to take immediate action, the President promulgated the Fugitive Economic Offenders Ordinance, 2018 (No.1 of 2018) on the 21st April, 2018 which, *inter alia*, provides for expeditious confiscation of proceeds of crime and properties or benami property owned by a fugitive economic offender in India or abroad with a view to making them to submit to the jurisdiction of Courts in India.

Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha have passed FEO Bill during the current Session of Parliament and the same would be published after its assent by the President.

### **GST on sanitary napkins**

1494. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the GST rate fixed for sanitary napkins at present;
- (b) the GST rate fixed for bindi, kajal and bangles at present;
- (c) the Government justification of disparity between such rates;
- (d) whether Government is aware of the fact that 70-80 per cent of women in the country are not using sanitary napkins due to its unaffordable cost; and
- (e) whether Government has taken note of the health hazards faced by the women in the country because of unsafe sanitary methods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHIV PRATAP SHUKLA): (a) Based on the recommendation the GST Council Sanitary Napkins have been exempted from GST with effect from 27.07.2018.

(b) Bindi, kajal, Plastic bangles, glass bangles (except those made from precious metals) and bangles of lac/shellac are exempted from GST.

(c) Prior to 27.07.2018, Sanitary Napkins attracted GST rate of 12%, which was based on the pre-GST tax incidence on sanitary napkins. However, based on GST Council recommendations, Sanitary Napkins have been exempted from GST with effect from 27.07.2018.

(d) As per National Family Health Survey IV (2015-16), 42% women are using sanitary napkins in the age group of 15-24 years.

(e) Yes Sir. Health is a state subject and in order to ensure hygienic practices during menstruation, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) is supporting States to implement the Menstrual Hygiene Scheme (MHS) since 2011 for rural adolescent girls under which funds are released to the States/UTs as per the proposals received in their Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs).