

- (8) Name based tracking of mothers and children till two years of age (Mother and Child Tracking System) is done to ensure complete antenatal, intranatal, postnatal care and complete immunization as per schedule.
- (9) Health and nutrition education through Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) to promote healthy practices and create awareness to generate demand and improve service uptake.
- (10) Iron and folic acid (IFA) supplementation for the prevention of anaemia among the vulnerable age groups and home visits by ASHAs to promote exclusive breast feeding. To tackle the problem of anaemia due to malaria particularly in pregnant women and children, Long Lasting Insecticide Nets (LLINs) and Insecticide Treated Bed Nets (ITBNs) are distributed in endemic areas.
- (11) Dietary counseling to pregnant women is provided during ante-natal visits through the existing network of sub-centres and primary health centres and other health facilities as well as through outreach activities at Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Days (VHNDs).
- (12) Various trainings are being conducted to build and upgrade the skills of health care providers in basic and comprehensive obstetric care of mother during pregnancy, delivery and essential new-born care.

#### **Awareness of Menstrual Hygiene**

1847. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is proposal for any scheme for creating awareness about menstrual hygiene and distribution of free sanitary napkins in the rural areas; and

(b) whether there is any proposal for regulation of price of sanitary napkins to increase access to more women and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) Yes. The Government of India is supporting States/UTs for the implementation of Menstrual Hygiene Scheme for Adolescent Girls (aged 10-19) as per proposal received from the States/UTs in their Program Implementation Plans.

The scheme encompasses the following:—

- Increasing awareness among adolescent girls on menstrual hygiene

- Improving access to and use of high quality sanitary napkins by adolescent girls residing primarily in rural areas.
- Ensuring safe disposal of sanitary napkins in an environmentally friendly manner
- Provision of funds to ASHAs to hold monthly meetings with adolescents to discuss issues related to menstrual hygiene.

A range of IEC material has been developed around maintenance of good menstrual health, using 360 degree approach to create awareness among adolescent girls about safe and hygienic menstrual health practices which includes audio, video and reading materials for adolescent girls and job-aids for ASHAs and other field level functionaries for communicating with adolescent girls.

There is no provision for free distribution of sanitary napkins under the Scheme. Adolescent girls are provided sanitary napkins at a subsidized rate through the ASHAs

(b) No.

**Upgradation of Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) under  
Ayushman Bharat Scheme**

1848. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ayushman Bharat Scheme proposes upgrading sub centres (SCs) to Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs);

(b) whether it is also a fact that as per data made available from the Rural Health Statistics 2017, the services envisaged under HWC are not even available at most of the existing community health centres (CHCs); and

(c) how Government plans to meet the huge shortage of specialist doctors and other support at CHCs since upgrading SCs to HWCs without matching referral set up can be counter-productive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) As per the budget announcement 2017-18, 1.5 lakh Health Sub Centres and Primary Health Centres are being transformed into Health and Wellness Centres across the country under Ayushman Bharat (AB-HWCs) for provision of comprehensive primary care that includes preventive healthcare and health promotion at the community level with continuum of care approach.