

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 388**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 6TH DECEMBER 2023/ AGRAHAYANA, 15, 1945
(SAKA)**

STEPS TO IMPROVE THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF FEMALE PRISONERS

388 SMT. SANGEETA YADAV:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made by Government to improve the living conditions of female prisoners in the last five years and the current year;

(b) whether female prisoners are being provided any facility during their menstrual cycles such as sanitary pads in any form in non-metropolitan jails;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether Government will consider providing such facility to the female prisoners in near future?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI AJAY KUMAR MISHRA)**

(a) to (d): 'Prisons'/'persons detained therein' is a "State List" subject under Entry 4 of List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Administration and management of prisoners is the responsibility of State Governments, who are competent to take appropriate steps for the welfare of inmates, including women inmates. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments by

issuing various advisories and guidelines from time to time. MHA had issued a detailed advisory to States and UTs sharing the guidelines for providing appropriate facilities to women inmates. A comprehensive Model Prison Manual 2016 has also been shared with all States and UTs in 2016. The Manual has a dedicated chapter on 'Women Prisoners', which provides guidance on Personal Hygiene, Pregnancy, Child birth in Prisons, Children of Women prisoners, Healthcare, Diet and Food, etc. The Manual also provides that sterilised sanitary pads/napkins should be issued to women prison inmates for use during menstruation as per their requirement. MHA had also forwarded a report titled 'Women in Prisons' received from the Ministry of Women and Child Development, to all States and UTs for implementation of the suggestions contained in the report relating to women inmates. The Report provides that sterilized sanitary pads should be issued free of cost to women prisoners as per their requirements.
