

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2146**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2025/ PHALGUNA 28, 1946 (SAKA)**

**POOR ACCESS TO SANITARY PRODUCTS FOR FEMALE PRISON INMATES**

**2146 DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU:**

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

**(a) whether Government is aware of poor access to sanitary products for female prison inmates;**

**(b) if so, whether Government has initiated any action so the authorities responsible meet the required standards/guidelines issued for the same; and**

**(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
(SHRI BANDI SANJAY KUMAR)**

**(a) to (c): ‘Prisons’/‘persons detained therein’ is a “State List” subject under Entry 4 of List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Therefore, the administration and management of prisons and prisoners is the primary responsibility of respective State Governments/Union Territories (UTs), who have the responsibility of taking necessary steps for providing sanitary pads/napkins to female inmates.**

**However, given the significance of prisons in the Criminal Justice System, the Ministry of Home Affairs has been providing appropriate**

**guidelines to the States/UTs, from time to time, for efficient prison administration and prisoners management. In this connection, a Model Prison Manual 2016 was prepared by the Ministry of Home Affairs and shared with all States and Union Territories in the year 2016. The Manual has a dedicated chapter on 'Women Prisoners', which provides that sterilised sanitary pads/napkins should be issued to women prison inmates for use during menstruation. The Ministry of Home Affairs 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, which provides that sterilized sanitary pads should be issued free of cost to women prisoners.**

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