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स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय
Government of India
Department of Health and Family Welfare
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

D.O. No. M-12015/42/2016-AH
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Dear colleagues,

As you are aware, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is implementing the **Menstrual Hygiene Scheme (MHS)** under the National Health Mission (NHM) to ensure improved access to menstrual hygiene products among adolescent girls and promote safe menstrual practices.

The directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (C) No. 1000/2022 (Jaya Thakur vs Union of India), clearly specify that States/UTs to "All States and Union Territories shall ensure that every school, whether Government-run or privately managed, in both urban and rural areas, provides oxo- biodegradable sanitary napkins manufactured in compliance with the ASTM D-6954 standards free of cost. Such sanitary napkins shall be made readily accessible to girl students, preferable within the toilet premises through sanitary napkin vending machines, or, where such installation is not immediately feasible, at a designated place or with a designated authority within the school "

It is again being reiterated that:

- States/UTs are required to adhere to financial guidelines and approvals.
- Decision to provide sanitary napkins free of cost may be undertaken within the approved Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) and available financial envelope
- Last-mile distribution mechanisms, including schools, ASHAs, ANMs and other community platforms, ensuring equitable access and uninterrupted supply should be ensured.
- All sanitary napkins procured and distributed under MHS may adhere to the prescribed quality standards, in line with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

States/UTs are requested to ensure strict adherence to the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, along with the Union's Menstrual Hygiene Policy for School -Going Girls, which are to be treated as mandatory standards for implementation.

Your faithfully,

मीरा श्रीवास्तव

(Meera Srivastava)

To,
The Mission Directors (NHM)-All States/UTs

#StopObesity

टीबी हारेगा देश जीतेगा / TB Harega Desh Jeetega

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