



## NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

### **NCW writes to HRD Minister to consider installation of sanitary napkin vending machines and incinerators in schools and colleges**

**28 May, 2018:** The National Commission for Women (NCW) actively supports Menstrual Hygiene Day, the global campaign to break the taboos around menstruation and promote menstrual hygiene management (MHM).

The objective of observing May 28 as Menstrual Hygiene Day is to raise awareness of the many challenges women and adolescent girls face due to menstruation and highlight solutions addressing these challenges. The Commission recognizes the need to make hygienic menstrual products accessible and affordable to all women and adolescent girls in India, as easy access to sanitary pads has the potential to improve the quality of life for a large portion of women and adolescent girls in the country.

In this context, the NCW has written to the Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri Prakash Javedekar requesting him to consider installation of sanitary napkin vending machines within the premises of all schools and universities across India.

In its letter, the Commission highlighted the fact that about 23% of girls miss school or drop out of school amongst others due to non-availability of hygienic sanitary products inside educational institutions. The letter also stated that female students face great difficulty when it comes to sanitation and hygiene especially as many educational institutions fail to meet even the bare minimum standards.

In an effort to promote safe disposal of menstrual waste and promote the Prime Minister's Swachh Bharat Mission, the NCW further requested the Minister to consider installation of eco-friendly incinerators in all schools and universities for safe disposal of sanitary cloths and pads, as improper disposal of soiled sanitary napkins adversely affect the environment and public health.

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