GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2169
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.03.2022

MEASURES TAKEN TO CONTROL BLINDNESS CASES

2169 SHRI K.C VENUGOPAL:
SHRI SUJEET KUMAR:

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

a) whether India is the worst affected country in the world by blindness and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

b) the estimated number of blind people in the country particularly in rural and backward areas, State/UT-wise ;

c) the scheme being implemented by Government to control blindness indicating the funds allocated and spent for the purpose during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise; and

d) the steps being taken by Government for improvement of eye donation, collection, storage, processing and maintenance of quality in this regard?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(DR.BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)

(a) As per the WHO Global Data on Visual Impairment 2010, India (20.5%) along with China (20.9%) were among the most affected countries by blindness in the world; however, since then our country has made significant improvement. The WHO Global Action Plan for Universal Eye Health 2014-2019 targets a reduction in the prevalence of Avoidable Visual Impairment (defined as presenting visual acuity less than 6/18 in better eye) by 25% by the year 2019 from the baseline level of 2010. The WHO had estimated a prevalence of blindness and Visual Impairment (VI) as 0.68% and 5.30% respectively in India for the year 2010. The recent survey shows a reductionin blindness by 47.1% (from 0.68% to 0.36%)and 51.9% in VI (from 5.30%to 2.55%).Thus, target of 25% reduction in visual impairment has been successfully achieved by India.

The key reasons for high burden of cataract blindness in India are:

- Increasing elderly population due to improved life expectancy in country and cataract is age related disease.
- High prevalence is observed due to more exposure to Ultra Violet radiations (as indicated by ICMR- UVR study)
- The targets were affected in last two years due to Covid 19 pandemic in the country
- Lack of awareness in remote areas about the availability of treatment among population.
- Limited access to treatment facilities in remote areas.

- A wide variance in cataract surgery rates from state to state revealing the need to set up cataract treatment facilities specific areas.

(b) The National Blindness &Visual Survey India 2015-19 was conducted using Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness(RAAB) strategy in 31 districts randomly selected from 24 states/UT's by Dr. RP Centre AIIMS to provide evidence about present status of blindness and visual impairment in the country. It included both urban and rural districts. The percentage of Visually Impaired Persons in population $\geq$ 50 years in 31 districts randomly selected from 24 states /UT's is at **Annexure-I.**

(c) The National Programme for Control of Blindness & Visual Impairment (NPCB&VI) was launched in 1976to provide comprehensive eye care to all citizens across all districts of the country. Under NPCB&VI funds allocated during last three years and the current year, State/UT wise is placed at **Annexure-II.**

(d) Eye donation is one of the approved activities under the National Programme for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment (NPCB&VI).Non-recurring grant-in-aid(GIA) is provided to Eye Banks in public sectors up to Rs. 40.00 Lakh per unit and to Eye Donation Centers in public sector up to Rs. 1.00 Lakh per unit for strengthening/ development.

Recurring GIA to Eye Banks is paid under NPCB&VI at the rate of Rs. 2000/- per pair of eyes (Eye Banks reimburse the Eye Donation Centers attached with it for eye collected by them @ Rs. 1000/- per pair of eyes) to meet the cost of consumables including preservative material & media, transportation and contingencies. I

IEC activities are held which include observing Eye Donation Fortnight as well. Financial support is provided to States/ UTs for undertaking IEC activities.

This Ministry has funded a project by Dr. R. P. Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences, AIIMS, New Delhi – "Development and Supply of Longer Storage Corneal Preservation Media Along with the Regular Supply of Corneal Storage Media to Indian Eye Bank", which essentially provides support for supply of M. K. Medium – a preservative medium for donated cornea.

***

Annexure-I

District Wise Visually Impaired Persons in population aged ≥ 50 years (%)			
S. No.	**District**	**State**	**Percentage**
1.	Jammu	Jammu & Kashmir	14.16
2.	Bilaspur	Himachal Pradesh	10.36
3.	Kapurthala	Punjab	11.53
4.	Yamuna Nagar	Haryana	10.60
5.	West Delhi	Delhi	11.65
6.	Sikar	Rajasthan	12.49
7.	Sirohi		11.95
8.	Bijnor	Uttar Pradesh	21.82
9.	Banda		11.61
10.	Ambedkar Nagar		13.82
11.	Khargone	Madhya Pradesh	12.49
12.	Guna		13.94
13.	Janjgir-Champa	Chhattisgarh	17.05
14.	Khera	Gujarat	11.13
15.	Thane	Maharashtra	12.98
16.	Wardha		13.75
17.	North Goa	Goa	8.91
18.	Vaishali	Bihar	11.83
19.	Sitamarhi		14.40
20.	Purbi Singhbum	Jharkhand	16.26
21.	Nayagarh	Odisha	17.88
22.	Howrah	West Bengal	11.91
23.	Birbhum		17.39
24.	Warangal	Telangana	20.31
25.	Kadapa	Andhra Pradesh	13.55
26.	Chikmagalur	Karnataka	10.19
27.	Virudhunagar	Tamil Nadu	15.38
28.	Thrissur	Kerala	9.88
29.	Nalbari	Assam	15.02
30.	Thoubal	Manipur	7.30
31.	East Siang	Arunachal Pradesh	11.20

***

ANNEXURE II

State/UT wise Approvals and Expenditure under National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB) under Flexible Pool for Non-Communicable Diseases under NHM from F.Y. 2018-19 to 2021-22

Rs. in Lakhs

S.No.	Name of the State/UTs	2018-19		2019-20		2020-21		2021-22	
		Approvals	Expenditure	Approvals	Expenditure	Approvals	Expenditure	Approvals	Expenditure
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	63.49	6.16	13.79	10.35	26.82	0.59	24.78	1.97
2	Andhra Pradesh	4716.03	4287.23	6022.04	4696.90	6814.50	1666.35	9096.50	621.61
3	Arunachal Pradesh	295.35	321.52	596.10	0.00	457.45	22.63	133.70	126.53
4	Assam	1117.65	655.58	1218.85	517.18	1384.56	328.14	930.15	199.25
5	Bihar	5314.76	2433.55	3504.95	1460.77	4400.08	941.96	3881.26	415.03
6	Chandigarh	41.35	0.00	3.50	0.00	4.00	0.00	42.45	1.98
7	Chhattisgarh	623.00	561.31	673.00	472.07	1055.50	237.82	1502.11	253.24
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	23.75	5.94	16.20	12.03	16.26	0.01	15.72	6.64
9	Daman & Diu	14.12	15.54	10.49	1.28				
10	Delhi	660.55	163.14	727.70	113.37	362.80	77.03	402.80	28.14
11	Goa	91.70	53.79	94.90	73.71	101.90	26.68	113.90	16.96
12	Gujarat	4611.83	3684.33	4264.04	2246.30	3860.18	4217.06	4295.88	1288.80
13	Haryana	496.75	84.08	451.85	178.80	728.45	255.48	871.49	137.62
14	Himachal Pradesh	106.45	50.65	160.63	107.19	219.60	34.54	170.41	43.39
15	Jammu & Kashmir	390.90	271.63	484.95	247.28	449.60	78.10	940.00	148.11
16	Jharkhand	2636.93	617.36	8429.68	700.99	1745.00	765.08	1786.00	557.85
17	Karnataka	3002.87	2577.50	2963.23	2767.61	3127.54	820.31	3249.92	818.51
18	Kerala	1382.19	720.48	2200.10	722.63	1155.55	845.12	1303.38	128.95
19	Ladakh	-	-	-	-	0.00	1.85	143.53	3.17
20	Lakshadweep	40.50	0.00	18.00	16.00	31.93	0.39	51.26	1.83
21	Madhya Pradesh	5504.00	4402.09	5271.55	4884.90	4642.60	2631.70	6400.47	2877.60

22	Maharashtra	1752.00	640.33	2016.90	706.00	802.15	322.10	3439.22	631.37
23	Manipur	119.25	347.33	298.00	283.88	342.95	0.00	452.98	0.00
24	Meghalaya	68.26	89.85	47.00	49.27	115.20	126.80	200.21	100.77
25	Mizoram	264.82	160.23	142.65	62.08	116.08	51.67	144.65	40.95
26	Nagaland	87.00	35.54	233.30	65.46	109.70	0.05	127.10	30.19
27	Odisha	2677.22	1193.00	3177.62	1462.74	2262.52	652.87	2112.13	705.52
28	Puducherry	62.81	58.02	95.59	41.93	96.79	31.40	197.56	23.52
29	Punjab	744.70	473.08	1968.95	559.45	775.18	235.67	825.40	239.52
30	Rajasthan	3139.80	1637.12	3836.60	1249.72	3933.05	1308.70	3974.47	964.39
31	Sikkim	106.80	15.71	23.40	13.64	56.25	0.00	110.75	7.56
32	Tamil Nadu	4571.00	6086.29	6441.35	3402.14	6347.75	1228.75	6312.03	1065.23
33	Telangana	5258.50	3657.97	1347.00	1042.23	1757.64	1019.10	1125.70	283.87
34	Tripura	113.72	199.24	76.00	35.94	450.75	35.75	308.14	199.80
35	Uttar Pradesh	6408.73	2894.62	8164.66	3157.81	7190.50	2719.70	12948.87	976.47
36	Uttarakhand	396.92	310.97	394.62	204.16	462.83	180.31	161.72	127.50
37	West Bengal	1954.58	973.78	2115.70	1598.27	2688.77	1878.64	4607.57	975.06

Note:
1. The above information is as per the available Financial Management Report (FMR) submitted by States/UTs.
2. Expenditure includes expenditure against Central Release, State share & unspent balances at the beginning of the year.

3. The above data is updated upto 31.12.2021.