

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1886
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16TH DECEMBER, 2025**

EYE SCREENING FOR CHILDREN

1886. DR. SIKANDER KUMAR:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has any proposal for enhancing funds under Mission Drishti for screening the eyes of school children from Class VI-XII in Government schools;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the manner in which Ministry plans to address the additional expenses caused by hilly terrain and far-flung schools in States like Himachal Pradesh which are driving higher unit cost; and
- (d) whether the Ministry has taken any steps to revise cost norms and provide additional funds required to close the gap in every State, if so, the efforts taken in this regard?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)**

(a) to (d) Mission Drishti is not a program of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. However, the Ministry through National Programme for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment (NPCBVI) has taken initiatives like screening through mobile ophthalmic units at hilly, remote and hard to reach areas. Vision centers have also been established at Primary Health Centres/Community Health Centres to provide basic screening and refraction services. Under School Eye Screening component of NPCBVI, free spectacles to school children are being provided in States/UTs including the State of Himachal Pradesh. This initiative also focuses on early identification and correction of refractive errors among children aged 6–18. There is also a provision for distribution of spectacles to School Children under the Program.

Apart from this, under the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, annual health screening for children including for issues related to eyes/vision, is conducted in Government schools by RBSK Mobile Health Teams following a structured protocol.
