

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1227
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10TH FEBRUARY, 2026**

**NEED FOR A NATIONAL REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR OPTOMETRIC
SERVICES**

1227. DR. AJEET MADHAVRAO GOPCHADE:

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

- (a) whether it is aware that a substantial section of India's population relies on spectacles and contact lenses for daily activities, thereby making accurate vision correction a critical public safety and public health concern;
- (b) whether the absence of a uniform national regulatory mechanism for optometric services, covering eye testing, prescription accuracy, lens quality, fitting practices and professional accountability, may adversely affect vision health and contribute to road accidents; and
- (c) whether Government proposes to examine international best practices and consider establishing a statutory National Optical Regulatory Board to ensure quality?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) to (c) : As per national survey, Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness (RAAB) 2019 data, refractive errors are responsible for visual impairment in 13.4% population above 50 years age and 29.6% population below 50 years age.

The National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions (NCAHP) has been constituted, inter-alia, for regulation and maintenance of standards of education and services by allied and healthcare professionals listed under the Schedule of NCAHP Act, 2021. The Optometrist profession (ISCO Code 2267) comes under the Sl. No 5 (Ophthalmic Sciences Professional) of Schedule of NCAHP Act, 2021. The curriculum for Optometry has been released by National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions (NCAHP) on 24.04.2025 which is available on the NCAHP website.

Further, Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) regulates quality, safety and performance of medical devices under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Medical Devices Rules, 2017 thereunder. Spectacles/Contact lenses intended for vision correction are regulated as medical devices under Medical Devices Rules, 2017 and are required to comply with the applicable standards for ensuring quality, safety and performance as prescribed under the said rules.
