

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 101  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY, 2018**

**BLINDNESS**

**101. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL:**

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

- (a) whether India is one of the countries worst affected by blindness;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of visually impaired persons in the country, particularly in the rural and tribal areas, State/UT-wise;
- (d) the funds allocated and spent to deal with blindness during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check the rising number of cases of blindness in the country?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b): As per the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Data on Visual Impairments 2010, China accounts for 20.9% and India 20.5% of the total blindness in the classified 6 WHO regions in the world.

As per the Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness (RAAB) conducted under the National Programme for Control of Blindness & Visual Impairment (NPCB&VI) in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare during the year 2006-07, the prevalence of blindness in India was found to be 1% (as per the earlier definition of blindness of visual acuity <6/60).

The number of blind persons in India also appears high due to large population base, increase in ageing population and semi tropical location of the country, lack of public awareness, orthodox beliefs and economic constraints etc. The causes of blindness in India are as under:

- Cataract (62.6%)
- Refractive Error (19.7%)
- Glaucoma (5.80%)
- Corneal Blindness (0.9%)
- Posterior Segment Disorder (4.7%)
- Posterior Capsular Opacification (0.9%)
- Surgical Complication (1.2%)
- Others (4.1%)

(c): As per the estimates of detailed Blindness Survey conducted in 2001-02, the State/UT-wise number of visually impaired persons in the country including rural and tribal areas is given at **Annexure-I**.

(d): The funds approved under the State Programme Implementation Plan (SPIP) and spent during each of the last three years and current year under this programme, State/UT-wise is at **Annexure-II**.

(e): The following steps have been taken under NPCB&VI to check the rising number of cases of blindness in the country:

- Decentralized implementation of the scheme through State/District Health Societies;
- Reduction in the backlog of blind persons by active screening and transporting operable cases to fixed eye-care facilities at Government and identified NGO eye hospitals for operation/treatment;
- Besides Cataract, provision for treatment/management of other eye diseases like, Diabetic Retinopathy, Glaucoma, Corneal Blindness, Retinal Diseases, Childhood Blindness including Retinopathy of Prematurity etc.;
- Involvement of private practitioners in eye care services;
- Screening of children for identification and treatment of refractive errors and distribution of free spectacles to those suffering from refractive errors under School Eye Screening Programme;
- Collection of donated eyes for corneal transplantation and strengthening of eye banking services;
- In-service training to Eye Surgeons in various fields of ophthalmology for development of skills;
- Strengthening of eye-care infrastructure at various levels to improve quantity and quality of eye-care services;
- Promoting preventive Eye care and creating awareness through IEC activities;
- Regular monitoring and evaluation for effective implementation of the programme.

## ANNEXURE-I

## Estimated Blind/Visually Impaired Persons in India

S.No.	State/UTs	Prevalence of Blindness (Survey 2001-02)	Estimated Blind Persons (visual acuity <6/60) by NPCB definition	Estimated Visually Impaired persons (visually acuity <6/18) by NPCB definition
1	ANDAMAN & NICOBAR	1.10	3919	19595
2	ANDHRA PRADESH	1.42	1075331	5376655
3	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	2.28	24877	124387
4	ASSAM	3.05	812471	4062357
5	BIHAR	0.78	646455	3232273
6	CHANDIGARH	1.01	9099	45496
7	CHHATTISGARH	1.61	334815	1674074
8	DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI	1.07	2359	11794
9	DAMAN & DIU	1.07	1691	8456
10	DELHI	1.13	155748	778738
11	GOA	1.52	20429	102144
12	GUJARAT	1.07	541388	2706939
13	HARYANA	1.89	398468	1992342
14	HIMACHAL PRADESH	0.70	42541	212704
15	JAMMU & KASHMIR	1.61	162126	810628
16	JHARKHAND	1.41	379423	1897115
17	KARNATAKA	1.78	938664	4693322
18	KERALA	0.56	178296	891481
19	LAKSHADWEEP	1.10	667	3333
20	MADHYA PRADESH	1.16	700467	3502337
21	MAHARASHTRA	0.95	919146	4595732
22	MANIPUR	1.38	32963	164816
23	MEGHALAYA	0.74	17065	85325
24	MIZORAM	0.78	6950	34751
25	NAGALAND	1.05	20881	104403
26	ODISHA	1.40	513897	2569484
27	PUDUCHERRY	0.78	7596	37979
28	PUNJAB	1.01	245322	1226609
29	RAJASTHAN	1.55	875333	4376667
30	SIKKIM	0.65	3513	17566
31	TAMIL NADU	0.78	484465	2422323
32	TRIPURA	0.77	24572	122860
33	UTTAR PRADESH	0.94	1560897	7804484
34	UTTARAKHAND	0.56	47486	237428
35	WEST BENGAL	1.19	954632	4773160
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>AVERAGE = 1.10</b>	<b>12143952</b>	<b>60719757</b>

Source: Blindness survey 2001-02.

## Annexure II

Details of SPIP Approval Vs Expenditure under National Programme for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment for FY 2014-15 to 2017-18

Rs. In Lakhs

S. No.	Name of the State/UTs	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18	
		SPIP Approvals	Expenditure	SPIP Approvals	Expenditure	SPIP Approvals	Expenditure	SPIP Approvals	Expenditure
<b>A. High Focus States .</b>									
1	Bihar	500.00	0.00	1112.00	824.77	1379.16	618.16	1857.90	119.36
2	Chhattisgarh	818.74	328.71	458.00	307.38	761.20	434.18	961.73	102.95
3	Himachal Pradesh	134.00	141.37	100.00	151.92	127.00	90.15	243.51	11.38
4	Jammu & Kashmir	400.00	134.19	400.00	146.03	534.24	67.72	413.59	101.71
5	Jharkhand	1000.00	0.00	466.00	254.00	685.77	538.78	583.57	98.12
6	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	1308.24	1000.00	1672.04	1834.13	2420.69	2657.60	473.08
7	Odisha	1238.80	862.41	900.00	874.04	1384.09	846.88	1840.79	223.84
8	Rajasthan	1500.00	955.19	904.57	1372.00	1708.13	1458.38	1809.38	272.33
9	Uttar Pradesh	3800.00	1965.61	2200.00	1582.45	2481.94	1811.67	5065.15	543.60
10	Uttarakhand	706.14	563.00	274.00	177.65	213.44	167.93	289.69	2.20
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>10097.68</b>	<b>6258.72</b>	<b>7814.57</b>	<b>7362.28</b>	<b>11109.10</b>	<b>8454.54</b>	<b>15722.91</b>	<b>1948.57</b>
<b>B. NE States</b>									
11	Arunachal Pradesh	349.00	0.00	251.25	0.00	335.38	206.13	391.68	43.20
12	Assam	1300.00	1197.64	1355.25	1073.30	1401.56	621.16	1598.67	158.78
13	Manipur	500.50	18.12	168.30	36.12	418.46	24.54	844.60	0.94
14	Meghalaya	330.00	0.00	190.50	45.69	203.02	87.70	101.64	0.00
15	Mizoram	300.00	189.64	297.00	128.78	214.31	113.36	368.79	7.92
16	Nagaland	238.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	324.11	90.96	309.57	72.89
17	Sikkim	264.00	115.04	198.21	114.06	79.96	82.79	69.15	27.42
18	Tripura	0.00	72.93	300.00	220.18	0.00	178.35	331.53	12.60
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>3282.38</b>	<b>1593.37</b>	<b>2760.51</b>	<b>1618.12</b>	<b>2976.80</b>	<b>1404.99</b>	<b>4015.63</b>	<b>323.75</b>
<b>C. Non-High Focus States</b>									
19	Andhra Pradesh	600.00	0.00	539.00	1300.45	773.39	1140.19	1950.14	243.08
20	Goa	214.00	59.57	145.00	75.54	142.74	58.91,	73.82	10.76
21	Gujarat	28.58	2347.51	569.00	2247.89	2238.79	2277.84	2302.19	636.70
22	Haryana	296.78	273.10	234.00	241.79	0.00	219.48	208.99	18.14
23	Karnataka	2171.18	1135.84	1073.89	981.17	1959.73	1398.44	3209.78	154.06
24	Kerala	579.00	106.34	400.50	434.61	554.07	419.21	593.81	113.21
25	Maharashtra	2000.00	1394.76	1840.41	1168.12	2160.83	1417.35	2978.67	39.30
26	Punjab	801.54	583.00	323.78	749.89	700.66	490.79	807.29	34.13
27	Tamil Nadu	0.00	3039.80	991.32	1606.12	2013.90	2411.41	2350.04	1228.05
28.	Telangana	300.00	0.00	1520.00	415.04	770.01	575.25	1447.45	845.10
29	West Bengal	700.00	909.60	950.00	697.20	1724.69	1056.59	2123.65	214.49
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>7691.08</b>	<b>9849.52</b>	<b>8586.90</b>	<b>9917.82</b>	<b>13038.81</b>	<b>11465.47</b>	<b>18045.83</b>	<b>3537.01</b>

<b>D. Small States/UTs</b>									
30	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	42.11	18.62	274.00	11.26	61.63	15.82	71.68	0.88
31	Chandigarh	85.00	58.01	68.13	53.29	74.09	52.12	65.10	9.66
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	58.00	28.45	18.96	24.46	56.23	33.12	34.58	4.33
33	Daman & Diu	40.00	21.32	0.00	11.15	23.76	2.34	16.97	0.33
34	Delhi	289.00	110.61	199.50	143.19	261.10	90.91	564.54	26.42
35	Lakshadweep	40.00	0.00	10.26	0.00	16.07	0.00	22.43	0.00
36	Puducherry	175.00	0.00	75.00	26.83	97.18	90.76	80.75	4.76
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>729.11</b>	<b>237.01</b>	<b>645.85</b>	<b>270.17</b>	<b>590.06</b>	<b>285.08</b>	<b>856.05</b>	<b>46.38</b>
	<b>Grand Total.</b>	<b>21800.25</b>	<b>17938.62</b>	<b>19807.83</b>	<b>19168.39</b>	<b>27714.77</b>	<b>21610.07</b>	<b>38640.42</b>	<b>5855.72</b>

Note:

1.SPIP stands for State Program Implementation Plan.

2.Expenditure includes expenditure against Central Release, State share & unspent balances at the beginning of the year. Expenditure for the F.Y. 2017-18 is updated upto 30.09.2017, hence provisional.

3.The Above Figures are as per FMR reported by State/UTs.