

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4890
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31ST MARCH, 2023**

CASES OF BLINDNESS

**4890. SHRI C.N ANNADURAI
SHRI ARUN KUMAR SAGAR**

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** 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 the 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, particularly in Tamil Nadu;
- (d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check the growing problem of blindness in the country;
- (e) Whether the Government has assessed the requirement of optometrists and donated eye to prevent blindness in the country, if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and
- (f) Whether it is fact that donated eyes are reportedly left unused/wasted in Government eye banks/hospital across the country, if so, the details thereof?

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

- (a) to (f) : 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 (2015-19) about 4.8 million people are affected by the blindness in the country including the rural areas.

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

- Cataract (66.2%)
- Corneal opacity (7.4%)
- Cataract surgical complications (7.2%)
- Posterior segment disorders excluding DR and ARMD (5.9%)
- Glaucoma (5.5%).

Government of India implements National Programme for Control of Blindness and visual impairment (NPCBVI), a centrally sponsored programme, addressing all causes of blindness throughout the Country uniformly. Apart from cataract, refractive errors, corneal blindness and childhood blindness, the programme equally focuses on other eye diseases like glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP), age related macular degeneration etc. associated with life style diseases like diabetes and aging process.

The funds approved under the State Programme Implementation Plan (SPIP) and spent during each of the last three years, State/UT-wise are at **Annexure-I**.

As per NPCBVI programme norms, Paramedical Ophthalmic Assistant (Ophthalmic Assistant/Technician/Optomeric/Ophthalmic Nurse) are the manpower provisioned in the area of eye care in the States/UTs.

The Government has evaluated the need for non-trachomatous corneal opacity in the age group more than 50 years to be 7.4%. Quality of collected corneas, age of donor and pre-existing degeneration/diseases, determine the suitability of cornea transplantation. Only Healthy corneas are utilized for corneal transplantation to restore the vision of corneal blind.

Annexure I

State/UT wise SPIP Approvals and Expenditure under National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB) under NHM from F.Y. 2019-20 to 2022-23

Rs. in Lakhs									
S.No.	Name of the State/UTs	2019-20		2020-21		2021-22		2022-23	
		SPIP Approval	Expenditure	SPIP Approval	Expenditure	SPIP Approval	Expenditure	SPIP Approval	Expenditure
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	13.79	10.35	26.82	0.59	24.78	2.39	22.00	0.93
2	Andhra Pradesh	6022.04	4696.90	6814.50	1666.35	9096.50	3428.15	8704.50	1266.26
3	Arunachal Pradesh	596.10	0.00	457.45	22.63	133.70	226.53	436.50	34.21
4	Assam	1218.85	517.18	1384.56	328.14	930.15	513.35	898.84	191.35
5	Bihar	3504.95	1460.77	4400.08	941.96	3881.26	1693.44	3903.00	1560.38
6	Chandigarh	3.50	0.00	4.00	0.00	42.45	2.94	48.05	1.23
7	Chattisgarh	673.00	472.07	1055.50	237.82	1502.11	774.39	2050.75	519.04
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	16.20	12.03	16.26	0.01	15.72	11.09	34.57	3.22
	Daman & Diu	10.49	1.28						
9	Delhi	727.70	113.37	362.80	77.03	402.80	40.17	542.25	47.42
10	Goa	94.90	73.71	101.90	26.68	113.90	87.59	150.40	32.09
11	Gujarat	4264.04	2246.30	3860.18	4217.06	4315.72	2920.15	5442.47	1377.94
12	Haryana	451.85	178.80	728.45	255.48	871.49	421.26	702.93	253.62
13	Himachal Pradesh	160.63	107.19	219.60	34.54	170.41	94.13	299.50	22.40
14	Jammu & Kashmir	484.95	247.28	449.60	78.10	940.00	313.36	511.59	93.40
15	Jharkhand	8429.68	700.99	1745.00	765.08	1786.00	916.34	2598.56	531.69
16	Karnataka	2963.23	2767.61	3127.54	820.31	3323.43	2326.41	5761.13	900.51

