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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3294
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5TH AUGUST, 2016

BLINDNESS

3294. SHRI GOPAL SHETTY:

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 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 WHO Global Data on Visual Impairments 2010, China accounts for 20.9% and India 20.5% of the total blindness in the classified 8 WHO regions. As per the Rapid Survey on avoidable blindness (RAAB) conducted under the National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB), the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, during the year 2006-07, the prevalence of blindness in India was found to be 1%. The reasons of blindness are:

1. Cataract 62%
2. Refractive Errors 23%
3. Glaucoma 5%
4. Retinal disorder 5%
5. Others 10%

However, around 85% of this is treatable through medical and surgical interventions.

(c):   The details of estimated visually impaired persons in the country including rural areas, State/UT-wise, is at **Annexure-I.**

(d):   The details of financial assistance provided to States/UTs during Financial Year (FY) 2013-14 and 2014-15 is at **Annexure-II-A.**

From FY 2015-16 onwards, five Programmes i.e. National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB), National Mental Health Programme (NMHP), National Programme for Health Care of Elderly (NPHCE), National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) & National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancers, Diabetes Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) have been merged into Flexible Pool for Non-Communicable Diseases to improve the operational flexibility of the States/UTs. Accordingly, information related to allocation, release and expenditure under NCD Flexible Pool under National Health Mission (NHM) during the FY 2015-16 and 2016-17 is at **Annexure-II- B.**

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

i)   Decentralized implementation of NPCB through State/District Health Societies for close monitoring and supervision;

ii) Reduction in the backlog of blind persons by active screening of population above 50 years, organizing eye screening camps and transporting operable cases to fixed eye-care facilities for operation/treatment;

iii) Provision for free cataract operations through Government and Non-Government Organization (NGO) Eye Hospitals;

iv) Provision for treatment of other eye diseases like, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma management, laser techniques, corneal transplantation, vitreo-retinal surgery, treatment of childhood blindness etc. as new initiatives;

v)   Involvement of private practitioners in eye care services;

vi) 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;

vii) Screening and distribution of free spectacles to elderly population suffering for presbyopia;

viii) Collection of donated eyes for corneal transplantation;

ix) In-service training to eye surgeons in various fields of ophthalmology to refresh and develop skills;

x)   Strengthening/developing of eye-care infrastructure at various levels to improve quantity and quality of eye-care services;

xi) Provision for setting up Multipurpose District Mobile ophthalmic Units in District Hospitals to improve coverage area.

ESTIMATED BLIND PERSONS IN INDIA

S.No.	State/UTs	Prevalence of Blindness (Survey 2001-02)	Estimated Blind Persons (visual acuity <6/60) by NPCB definition
1	ANDAMAN & NICOBAR	1.10	3,919
2	ANDHRA PRADESH	1.42	10,75,331
3	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	2.28	24,877
4	ASSAM	3.05	8,12,471
5	BIHAR	0.78	6,46,455
6	CHANDIGARH	1.01	9,099
7	CHHATITISGARH	1.61	3,34,815
8	DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI	1.07	2,359
9	DAMAN & DIU	1.07	1,691
10	DELHI	1.13	1,55,748
11	GOA	1.52	20,429
12	GUJARAT	1.07	5,41,388
13	HARYANA	1.89	3,98,468
14	HIMACHAL PRADESH	0.70	42,541
15	JAMMU & KASHMIR	1.61	1,62,126
16	JHARKHAND	1.41	3,79,423
17	KARNATAKA	1.78	9,38,664
18	KERALA	0.56	1,78,296
19	LAKSHADWEEP	1.10	667
20	MADHYA PRADESH	1.16	7,00,467
21	MAHARASHTRA	0.95	9,19,146
22	MANIPUR	1.38	32,963
23	MEGHALAYA	0.74	17,065
24	MIZORAM	0.78	6,950
25	NAGALAND	1.05	20,881
26	ORISSA	1.40	5,13,897
27	PONDICHERRY	0.78	7,596
28	PUNJAB	1.01	2,45,322
29	RAJASTHAN	1.55	8,75,333
30	SIKKIM	0.65	3,513
31	TAMIL NADU	0.78	4,84,465
32	TRIPURA	0.77	24,572
33	UTTAR PRADESH	0.94	15,60,897
34	UTTRANCHAL	0.56	47,486
35	WEST BENGAL	1.19	9,54,632
	TOTAL	**1.10**	**1,21,43,952**

Source: Blindness survey 2001-02.

Statement showing State/UT-wise Allcation, Release & Expenditure under NPCB for the
F.Ys 2013-14 and 2014-15

Rs. In Crores

Sl. No.	States/Uts	2013-14			2014-15		
		Allocation	Release	Expenditure	Allocation	Release	Expenditure
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.61	0.22	-	0.60	0.24	0.19
2	Andhra Pradesh	14.29	3.87	-	3.50	4.34	-
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1.06	0.59	0.86	3.00	2.57	-
4	Assam	10.46	8.43	8.20	13.00	13.00	11.98
5	Bihar	13.24	-	5.42	5.00	4.24	-
6	Chandigarh	0.79	-	0.28	0.56	0.41	0.58
7	Chattisgarh	5.78	2.61	10.12	6.80	6.72	3.29
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1.24	-	0.35	0.60	0.10	0.28
9	Daman & Diu	0.37	-	-	0.40	0.10	0.21
10	Delhi	1.65	-	-	2.89	2.01	1.11
11	Goa	2.37	0.35	0.97	2.00	1.18	0.60
12	Gujarat	12.30	8.44	14.36	15.00	15.00	23.48
13	Haryana	3.83	-	3.59	3.00	3.00	2.73
14	Himachal Pradesh	1.52	-	-	1.41	-	1.41
15	Jammu & Kashmir	4.43	-	0.67	4.00	3.34	1.34
16	Jharkhand	7.46	5.40	-	4.00	3.35	-
17	Karnataka	12.71	6.86	13.39	12.80	12.65	11.36
18	Kerala	5.04	2.16	6.04	4.00	3.26	1.06
19	Lakshadweep	0.60	-	0.12	0.50	0.60	-
20	Madhya Pradesh	14.24	-	-	5.00	3.00	13.08
21	Maharashtra	16.95	11.03	28.26	4.50	4.50	13.95
22	Manipur	3.00	2.14	2.64	5.00	4.96	0.18
23	Meghalaya	2.55	0.52	0.92	3.00	1.48	-
24	Mizoram	2.00	0.90	3.18	3.00	2.65	1.90
25	Nagaland	2.70	0.83	-	3.00	1.11	-
26	Orissa	8.23	2.11	9.10	9.20	9.02	8.62

27	Pondicherry	1.41	0.79	1.01	1.75	1.73	-
28	Punjab	5.64	4.23	2.71	4.50	4.45	5.83
29	Rajasthan	13.46	4.29	8.55	11.50	11.25	9.55
30	Sikkim	1.82	0.49	0.83	2.00	1.71	1.15
31	Tamil Nadu	14.68	-	14.23	17.50	17.45	30.40
32	Tripura	2.06	-	0.84	3.00	2.52	0.73
33	Uttar Pradesh	25.44	10.90	-	7.00	3.87	19.66
34	Uttarakhand	2.29	1.05	-	5.20	5.11	5.63
35	West Bengal	13.78	10.34	7.92	7.00	7.00	9.10
36	Telangana				2.50	3.00	-
	TOTAL	**230.00**	**88.56**	**144.58**	**177.71**	**160.93**	**179.39**

Note:

1. Allocation is per Original outlay/B.E.

2. The above Releases relate to Central Govt. Grants & do not include state share contribution.

3. Expenditure includes expenditure against central Release, state release & unspent balances at the beginning of the year.

Statement showing State/UT-wise Allocation, Release and Expenditure under NCD Flexible Pool under NHM for the F.Y 2015-16 and 2016-17

Rs. In Crore

Sl. No	Name of State	2015-16			2016-17		
		Allocation	Release	Expenditure	Allocation	Release	Expenditure
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.73	0.55	0.11	1.21	-	-
2	Andhra Pradesh	17.66	14.78	18.67	17.49	-	-
3	Arunachal Pradesh	7.81	5.7	1.28	7.81	-	-
4	Assam	44.44	35.78	22.30	44.44	-	-
5	Bihar	36.43	22.34	10.77	36.08	-	-
6	Chandigarh	0.25	0.69	0.72	0.42	-	-
7	Chattisgarh	14.99	8.47	5.36	14.85	-	-
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.66	0.63	1.07	1.09	-	-
9	Daman & Diu	0.47	0.35	0.11	0.78	-	-
10	Delhi	4.05	2.23	1.62	6.72	-	-
11	Goa	0.47	0.23	1.43	0.46	-	-
12	Gujarat	21.53	20.98	34.71	21.32	-	-
13	Haryana	7.67	4.93	4.90	7.60	-	-
14	Himachal Pradesh	6.55	4.78	6.19	6.48	-	-
15	Jammu & Kashmir	14.73	8.16	7.18	14.59	-	-
16	Jharkhand	15.26	10.57	4.07	15.11	-	-
17	Karnataka	21.56	14.29	20.92	21.34	-	-
18	Kerala	9.33	5.18	8.94	9.24	-	-
19	Lakshadweep	0.12	0.07	0.37	0.21	-	-
20	Madhya Pradesh	35.75	26.82	26.46	35.40	-	-
21	Maharashtra	38.05	27.54	29.67	37.68	-	-
22	Manipur	5.00	3.08	1.62	5.00	-	-
23	Meghalaya	5.31	2.46	0.98	5.31	-	-
24	Mizoram	2.85	1.42	4.60	2.85	-	-
25	Nagaland	3.66	2.63	2.17	3.66	-	-
26	Orissa	19.74	16.19	21.08	19.55	-	-
27	Puducherry	0.31	0.29	0.52	0.52	-	-

28	Punjab	8.43	6.71	11.39	8.35	-	-
29	Rajasthan	36.05	27.04	40.78	35.70	-	-
30	Sikkim	1.27	0.95	4.20	1.27	-	-
31	Tamil Nadu	21.66	17.16	51.23	21.45	-	-
32	Tripura	5.32	2.55	2.97	5.32	-	-
33	Uttar Pradesh	72.51	54.39	35.43	71.81	-	-
34	Uttarakhand	8.99	6.62	1.78	8.90	-	-
35	West Bengal	25.09	13.03	14.18	24.85	-	-
36	Telangana	12.63	9.41	6.15	12.50	-	-
	Total	**527.36**	**379.00**	**405.97**	**527.36**	**-**	**-**

Note:

1. Allocation is per Original outlay/B.E.

2. The above Releases relate to Central Govt. Grants & do not include state share contribution. Release for the F.Y. 2016-17 is updated upto 08.07.2016 and is provisional.

3. Expenditure includes expenditure against central Release, state release & unspent balances at the beginning of the year. Expenditure for the F.Y. 2015-16 (upto 31.03.2016 as per FMR) are provisional.