

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1255

ANSWERED ON:10.12.2003

INCIDENTS OF BLINDNESS

AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO;BODAKUNTI VENKATESHWARLU

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

- (a) whether the Government has identified the States where incidents of blindness are on the increase;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the financial assistance provided for the purpose so far during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has initiated any fresh action plan for the control of blindness in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) & (b) As per recent surveys undertaken in various states of the country, prevalence of blindness has decreased in most of the states except in Karnataka, West Bengal, Punjab and Assam. State-wise prevalence of blindness is given at Statement I.

(c) Financial assistance provided under NPCB during the last three years and the current year is given at Statement 2.

(d) & (e) Yes, Sir. Government of India has signed declaration to implement strategies under 'Vision 2020: The Right to Sight' which is a global initiative to eliminate avoidable blindness by 2020. The proposal pattern of assistance under NPCB under the 10th Plan includes strategies to control childhood blindness, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, corneal blindness etc. An outlay of Rs. 445 crore has been made to control blindness during the 10th Plan.

**Statement I**

**Prevalence of Blindness in Selected Major States of India**

States      Prevalence of Blindness (%)

Survey 1986-89    Survey 2001-03    Difference +/- in %

Andhra Pradesh	1.50	1.42	-5.33
Assam	1.34	3.05	127.61
Bihar	1.28	0.78	-39.06
Chhatisgarh	2.01	1.61	-19.90
Gujarat	1.44	1.07	-25.69
Himachal Pradesh	0.87	0.70	-19.54
Karnataka	1.28	1.78	39.06
Kerala	1.31	0.56	-57.25
Madhya Pradesh	2.01	1.16	-42.29
Maharashtra	1.64	0.95	-42.07
Orissa	1.72	1.40	-18.60
Punjab	0.73	1.01	38.36
Rajasthan	2.24	1.55	-30.80
Tamilnadu	1.65	0.78	-52.73
Tripura	1.18	0.77	-34.75
Uttar Pradesh	1.58	0.94	-40.51
West Bengal	0.96	1.19	23.96
All States	1.49	1.10	-26.17

