

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3003  
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2006  
SCHEME FOR CHILDREN S EYE CARE  
Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao

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

- (a) Whether the Government has started/is likely to start a pilot scheme for children's eye care ;
- (b) If so, the details thereof ;
- (c) Whether any survey has been conducted in the cities/rural areas for protecting children's eye; and
- (d) If so, the details in this regard ?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) No, Sir. Under the National Programme for the Control of Blindness (NPCB), screening of school children for detection of refractive errors is an on going activity during 10th Five Year Plan. The target is to provide 3.10 lakh spectacles to school children.

(c)&(d) Though no population based nationwide survey has been undertaken on the prevalence of childhood blindness in India, data is available from some pockets showing state-wise prevalence rate as Andhra Pradesh (0.61/1000), West Bengal (0.51/1000) and Delhi 1/1000).