

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6983
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2010
INITIATIVES FOR EYE RELATED PROBLEMS
Shetkar Shri Suresh Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Union Government is supporting the State Governments for taking up the new initiatives for betterment of glaucoma, childhood blindness and low vision services;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made as a result thereof;
- (c) the funds allocated for the purpose during the last year, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether new methods have been developed in the country to detect glaucoma and eye related problems;and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a) & (b): Yes. National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare provides assistance in the form of grant-in-aid at a rate of Rs. 1000 per case to State Governments through State Health and Family Welfare Societies for management of Diabetic Retinopathy, Glaucoma management, Laser Techniques, Corneal Transplantation, Vitreoretinal Surgery and Treatment of Childhood Blindness as a new initiative during 11th Five Year Plan. Assistance is also provided to New Regional Institutes of Ophthalmology and existing Regional Institutes of Ophthalmology and Medical Colleges for development of Paediatric Eye Units/Low Vision Units/Retina Units etc. for better management of various eye diseases.

The new initiatives have been commenced in April, 2009.

(c): The status of provision of funds for management of Diabetic Retinopathy, Glaucoma management, Laser Techniques, Corneal Transplantation, Vitreoretinal Surgery, Treatment of Childhood Blindness etc. is at annexure.

(d) & (e): The existing methods to detect Glaucoma and other eye related problems in the country include screening hospital patients over the age of 40 years; diabetics & patients known to have glaucoma; screening of patients with fundus examination and noncontact tonometry.

Apart from the above, no new major methods to detect Glaucoma and Eye related problems have been reported as developed in recent times.