

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:357
ANSWERED ON:26.08.2011
CONTROL OF BLINDNESS
Rajaram Shri Wakchaure Bhausahab

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

- (a) the number of blind persons in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the funds earmarked and provided for the control of blindness in the country during each of the last three years and the current year so far, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has recently issued any directions for the utilization of the said funds; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 357 FOR 26TH AUGUST, 2011

(a) As per the Survey-2001-04 conducted under the National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB) in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, there are around 12 million blind persons (Visual Acuity <math><6/60</math>) in the country. A statement showing State/UT-wise distribution of blind persons in the country is given at ANNEXURE-I.

(b) A statement showing the funds earmarked and provided to States/UTs in the form of grant-in-aid for the control of blindness in the country during each of the last three years and current year (2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 (as on 23.08.2011) is given at ANNEXURE-II.

(c) & (d) Funds provided to States/UTs for control of blindness are utilized as per the approved pattern of assistance under NPCB during the 11th Five Year Plan. Implementing agencies in States/UTs are reminded regularly for utilization of the allotted funds as per the approved norms under the programme.