

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3960
ANSWERED ON:26.08.2011
EYE DONATION
Shukla Shri Balkrishna Khanderao Balu Shukla

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

- (a) whether the Government is promoting eye donation in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of eye banks and eye donation centres in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the provisions made for the safety and preservation/restoration of the donated eyes alongwith the monitoring mechanism set up for the compliance of these provisions by the eye banks and eye donation centres;
- (d) whether donated eyes kept in certain eye banks including at L.L.R.M. medical college, Meerut have been found to be unfit for replantation;
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the corrective measures taken/ proposed in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY)

(a) & (b): Promoting eye donation is an approved activity under Information Education Communication (IEC) component of National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB) during the 11th Five Year Plan. Special focus is given on eye donation during National Eye Donation Fortnight and World Sight Day organized as annual events under NPCB to persuade people to donate eyes after death. Besides, the message of eye donation is being propagated through print and electronic media in national and regional languages. A statement showing approximate number of eye banks/eye donation centres in the country, State/UT- wise is annexed.

(c): The preservation/restoration of the donated eyes is done as per the provisions in the "Standards of Eye Banking in India" formulated under NPCB. The activity is regularly monitored and assessed by the respective eye banks.

(d) to (f): No direct report about unfit donated eyes in eye banks including L.L.R.M. Medical Colleges, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh has been received from States. It is, however, normal that all collected corneas cannot be used for transplantation due to medical reasons. Before, transplantation, the collected corneas are assessed by specialists for quality and suitability for optical keratoplasty. However, corneas not suitable or fit for optical keratoplasty are utilized either for therapeutic keratoplasty or for training, research and study purposes.