

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2619

ANSWERED ON:09.12.2011

EYE CAMP

Das Shri Khagen;Premajibhai Dr. Solanki Kiritbhai

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

(a) whether the Government has taken note of deaths of some people and loss of eyesight due to infections contracted during an eye camp organised under the National Blindness Control Programme at Balod in Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken/proposed by the Government thereon; and

(d) the preventive measures taken/proposed by the Government to check the recurrence of such incidents in the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): As per the Investigation Report furnished by the Government of Chhattisgarh, forty-four people suffered loss of eyesight in one eye due to infection during an eye camp organized under the National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB) at Balod, Chhattisgarh from 21-30th September, 2011 by the Indian Medical Association.

It has also been reported that four patients operated during the eye camp later died. During investigation, it was found that death of these patients was most likely caused by pre-existing concomitant diseases.

(c): Action taken for the welfare of the affected persons are:

Investigation of the incident by a high level team of eye specialists in the State.

Examination of patients by eye specialists to ensure proper treatment of affected persons free of cost.

Compensation of Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees fifty thousand) each to forty-four affected persons by the State Government.

Action against the persons found responsible for eye mishap.

(d): Preventive measures taken to check the recurrence of such incidents in the country are:

Circulation of guidelines on eye surgery to eye-care units for strict compliance.

Ban on conducting surgical eye camps in school buildings, dharmshalas, club buildings and in open campus.

Strict monitoring and follow up of operated cases.

Maintenance of general hygiene through Information Education Communication (IEC) activities.