

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1331  
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2012  
COLOUR BLINDNESS  
Kumar Shri Shailendra

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

- (a) whether the Government has undertaken/proposed any research work to get rid of the disease of colour blindness;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with achievements made as a result thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government is taking any measures to address the problems of persons who are not being appointed on various important Government jobs due to this disease despite their selection; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY)

- (a) & (b): As per available information, no research work has been undertaken/proposed to be taken at this stage under the National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB) in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to get rid of Colour Blindness. It is pertinent to mention here that Colour Blindness is purely due to a genetic defect linked with X chromosome (recessive) transmitted from mother mainly to male children.
- (c): Most patients of Colour Blindness have colour deficiency. This deficiency is developmental and rarely affects the visual acuity (unless associated with dystrophies). Patients with colour deficiency are able to perform all daily activities normally. Research to get rid of Colour Blindness is hence not an area of priority.
- (d) & (e): Every Government organization has some medical fitness rules regarding the requirement of quantity and quality of vision including that of colour vision for the jobs. Each of these organizations has their own medical boards to evaluate the candidates as per their guidelines/rules. Wherever perfect visual parameters are required for the job, like drivers of trains and other commercial vehicles, pilots, those in defence services etc., persons suffering from Colour Vision cannot be appointed, so that lives of others are safeguarded.