

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:190
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2012
CASES OF DEAFNESS
Kumar Shri P.

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

- (a) the total number of deaf persons in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the financial and technical assistance provided to the States to deal with the problem of deafness during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the steps taken/proposed by the Government to check deafness and create awareness about its treatment at initial stage;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to help deaf people with affordable Cochlear implants that can restore hearing for many deaf people; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 190 FOR 24TH AUGUST, 2012

(a) According to the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) 58th round (2002), nearly 291 persons per lakh population were hearing disabled in India. State/UT-wise details are at Annexure-I.

(b) Technical assistance provided under National Programme for Prevention and Control of Deafness (NPPCD) includes training of Master Trainers and developing Training modules for training of six levels of Medical/ Healthcare service providers such as:

District level ENT Surgeons and Audiologists

District level Paediatricians and Gynaecologist

Medical Officers of CHC and PHCs

Child Development Project Officers (CDPO), Anganwadi Worker Supervisors (AWW), Multi Purpose Health Worker (MPW) Supervisors and Public Health Nurse.

Anganwadi Workers, ASHA

Primary Teachers

In addition, standardised lectures and Operational Guidelines are prepared and sent to States for aiding the implementation of the Programme in the States and Districts.

Details of financial assistance provided in the last three years and the current year to States/UTs is at Annexure II.

(c) The National Programme for Prevention and Control of Deafness (NPPCD) was launched in January, 2007, on a pilot basis in 25 districts of 10 States and 1 Union Territory. The Programme now covers 184 districts of 16 States and 3 Union Territories till 31st March, 2012. Expansion of the Programme to the entire country is envisaged by the end of 12th Five Year Plan. The Programme aims at arresting loss of hearing through detection of causative factors and their effective management at early stages of life to prevent the onset of deafness. It includes strengthening of ear care services at all levels from Primary Health Centres (PHCs) through District Hospitals to Medical Colleges including services for rehabilitation and awareness creation.

(d)&(e):According to information received from the Department of Disability Affairs, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, there is no provision to supply Cochlear Implants under the Scheme of "Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/ Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP)". However, that department has a proposal to assist persons with hearing impairment with affordable

Cochlear Implants.