

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1437
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2009
EYE BANKS
Bheiravdanji Shri Gadhvi Mukeshkumar

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any study regarding requirement of donated eyes for treatment of blindness in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the estimated number of eyes donated during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether a large per cent of eyes collected for transplantation go waste as eye banks in the country are ill equipped to preserve them;and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

- (a): As per the survey 2001-04 conducted under the National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB), there are around 12 million blind persons in the country. However no separate study has been conducted regarding requirement of donated eyes for treatment of blindness in the country
- (b): A statement showing collection of Donated Eyes (state-wise) during the last three years alongwith current year (provisional) is annexed.
- (c)&(d): The Donated Eyes which could not be transplanted due to poor quality of tissue are used for teaching and research purposes and it does not go waste.