

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6145
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2013
EYE DONATION FACILITIES IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS
Ramasubbu Shri S.

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

- (a) the estimated number of blind people living in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the number of eyes donated and the number of people waiting for eye donor during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Central Government hospitals and its associated hospitals including All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) lacks adequate facilities for eye donation;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the facilities of eye donation including timely retrieval and transplantation of eyes in these hospitals and also to promote eye donation in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ABU HASEM KHAN CHOUDHURY)

(a): As per the National Survey (2001-02) conducted under the National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB) by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, a statement showing estimated number of blind people in the country, State/UT-wise, is given at ANNEXURE-I.

(b): As reported by States/UTs, a statement showing the number of donated eyes collected during the last three years (2010-11, 2011-12 & 2012-13) is given at ANNEXURE-II. The information for the current financial year is not available.

As per the available estimates, there is a need of around 20,000 corneas for new blind patients per year and around 1,00,000 corneas to clear the backlog.

(c) & (d): Eye Banks located in Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) are adequately equipped/developed for collecting eyes from willing donors. NPCB fully supports this activity by providing financial and logistic support as per the programme norms.

(e): The steps taken under NPCB to improve the facilities of eye donation including timely retrieval and transplantation in hospitals and to promote eye donation in the country are as under:

- i) Strengthening of Eye Banks and Eye Donation Centres in the country by providing required ophthalmic equipments and manpower;
- ii) Collection of eyes by Eye Banks from registered donors after their death and also from those patients who die in hospitals through "Hospital Corneal Retrieval Programme" for timely transplantation of cornea;
- iii) Appointment of Eye Donation Councillors in the identified Eye Banks to promote eye donation and timely utilization of donated eyes;
- iv) Information Education Communication (IEC) is an on-going activity under NPCB. Continued intensified efforts are being made under NPCB to promote eye donation by the following modes:
 - Radio programme – Ankhein Heain Anmol
 - Television Programmes – Swasth Bharat and Kalyani
 - Eye Donation Fortnight from 25th August to 8th September
 - World Sight Day on 2nd Thursday of October
 - Glaucoma Week during 10-16th March
 - Printing and distribution of NPCB newsletter to all eye surgeons in the country.