

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4119
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2015
PREVENTION OF TRACHOMA
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of people affected by Trachoma in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government for the prevention of trachoma-related blindness along with the incidence of the disease reduced as a result thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted/proposes to conduct survey in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the manner in which the survey has been conducted or proposed to be conducted in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)

(a) & (b): No information is maintained on the number of people affected by Trachoma centrally.

The following facilities are available in Government Hospital for diagnosis and treatment of trachoma:

1. Primary Health Centre
2. District/Sub-District Hospital
3. Government Medical College
4. Regional Institute of Ophthalmology
5. Identified NGO Eye Hospital

Additionally, the following steps have been taken under the National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB) for prevention and treatment of trachoma:-

Provision of local antibiotics namely Framycetin, Gentamicin, Sulphacetamide etc. through District Health Societies for treatment of trachoma;

Eye surgeons are given training to surgically treat entropion which is one of the causes of trachoma related blindness

The Optometrist are given training in diagnosing and treating trachoma during their academic curriculum;

Creating wide publicity and mass awareness using electronic and print media amongst the people of this nation for eye care and maintaining eye hygiene.

(c) to (e): A Rapid Assessment of Trachoma was conducted under National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB) during 2006. The rapid assessment was conducted in 10 districts of the country covering the 6 previously endemic states. The districts covered were Hoshiarpur (Punjab), Mahendergarh and Mewat (Haryana), Bikaner, Dholpur and Tonk (Rajasthan), Pauri Garhwal (Uttarakhand), Bulandshahr (Uttar Pradesh) and Kutch and Banaskanta (Gujarat).

The survey report observed that except in Gujarat where very low levels of active infection was reported, all the other states reported more cases. As per the survey report Bikaner district in Rajasthan, Mewat district in Haryana and Pauri Garhwal districts in Uttarakhand have high percentage of children with Trachoma.

The Government has approved conducting of National Trachoma Survey by Dr. Rajendra Prasad Centre (AHMS) in 9 districts of 5 States. In addition, conducting of the National Rapid Assessment Trachoma Survey in 15 districts of the country has also been

approved.