

1	2	3	4	5
16. Kerala	1081	8986	10067	
17. Lakshadweep UT	0	0	0	
18. Madhya Pradesh	11242	3567	14809	
19. Maharashtra	1031	20302	21333	
20. Manipur	0	589	589	
21. Meghalaya	246	3636	3882	
22. Mizoram	0	0	0	
23. Nagaland				
24. Orissa	23761	19146	215222	
25. Pondicherry U.T.	0	617	617	
26. Punjab	91	3523	3614	
27. Rajasthan	3026	5064	8090	
28. Sikkim	0	Yet to be finalised	0	
29. Tamil Nadu	9493	8828	18321	
30. Tripura	11	264	275	
31. Uttar Pradesh	15105	18043	33148	
32. West Bengal	254	15792	16046	
Total (Provisional)	126665	428305	554970	

[Translation]

**Cataract Patients**

\*190. SHRI MOTILAL VORA :  
SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA :

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

(a) whether the number of cataract patients is increasing continuously in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the estimated number of patients suffering from this disease annually particularly upto March 31, 1998;

(c) whether the Government propose to take any concrete steps to eradicate this disease;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) There is an increase in the numbers of Cataract Patients due to the increase of elderly population as Cataract is a degenerative disease that affects older age groups.

(b) The annual incidence of Cataract Blindness is estimated to be 20 lakhs.

(c) to (e) Cataract Blindness cannot be eradicated. However, therefore, the Government launched a National Programme for Control of Blindness in 1976 as 100% centrally sponsored scheme with the objective of reducing its prevalence level from 1.49% to 0.3% of the population by 2000 AD. Under the programme, Regional Institutes of Ophthalmology, medical colleges, district hospitals and block level primary health care centres were up-graded/strengthened; and provision made for extending technical training to the staff and supply of equipments and consumables to them.

With a view to remove the heavy backlog of persons suffering from cataract blindness a project with credit secured from World Bank is being implemented in States of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh which have shown levels of blindness higher than the national average. The assistance provided to States under the project, includes equipment support, construction of eye wards/operation theatres, training of eye surgeons in intraocular lens implantation and mobilising support of the voluntary organisations etc. Since the launching of this project, the budgetary allocations for the programme have increased to Rs. 75 crores during the current year from Rs. 20 crores prior to 1994 and annual cataract surgeries performed has increased from 19.13 lakhs to 30 lakhs.

[English]

**Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited**

\*191. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases in respect of which the Disinvestment Commission has suggested disinvestment of shares so far;

(b) the number of cases in which final decision has been taken together with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Commission has recommended disinvestment of 51 per cent in Fertilizers And Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT);

(d) whether a delegation of employees of FACT met the Minister and urged him not to accept the recommendations made by the said Commission; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the decisions taken thereon?