

(d) and (e) The Central Government has been advising the State Governments to fill up the vacancies of doctors and also ensure the adequate supply of drugs from time to time.

Statement

Vacancy position of Doctors/Pharmacists in Uttar Pradesh as on 30th June, 1996

	Sanctioned	In-position	Vacant
Doctors	3787	2263	1524
Pharmacists	927	927	Nil

Free Medical Treatment

318. SHRI BUDHSEN PATEL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have instructed the hospitals to follow certain rules at the time of issuing financial aid to them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also laid down a condition of providing free treatment to 40 percent poor people;

(d) if so, the name of the agency entrusted with conducting an enquiry into the non-compliance of the terms and conditions set in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) A condition of providing free treatment to poor and needy was being imposed by Foreign Investment Promotion Board while issuing the letter of approval in cases of proposal of setting up hospitals by NRI.

(c) to (e) The Directorate General of Health Services had been issuing custom duty exemption certificates for import of hospital equipments in terms of Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue)'s Notification No. 64/88-Cus., dated 1.3.88, provided the applicant institutions fulfill the conditions stipulated therein. While considering the case for issue of CDEC, it is assured from the State Government concerned that the hospital provides free treatment, on an average, to atleast 40% of all their out door patients as one of the conditions of the notification.

The notification No. 64/88-Cus., dated 1.3.88 has since been rescinded from 1.3.94. And also the entire matter of issuance of custom duty exemption certificate from 1988 onwards for private hospitals under Department of Revenue notification No. 64/88-Cus., dated 1.3.88 has been questioned in a Writ Petition No. 409/96 filed before Hon'ble

High Court of Delhi. After hearing the matter the Hon'ble Court in their interim order directed that two committees are to be formed to enquire into irregularities, malpractices etc. in import of hospital equipments. Accordingly the Ministry of Finance has constituted two committees vide their order No. 241 of 1996 vide their letter No. A. 11013/7/96-Ad.I, dated 1.11.96. Thus the entire matter is being examined by these two committees as per the terms of reference.

Cornea Implantation

319. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA:

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

(a) the number of blind persons in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether blindness caused due to accident or illness can be cured by cornea implantation;

(c) whether people show unwillingness to donate cornea in our country; and

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to launch a campaign for encouraging people towards donating cornea ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) On the basis of a survey conducted in 1989, it is estimated that there are more than 12 million blind persons in the country and the State-wise details of estimated No. of blind persons is given in the attached Statement.

(b) Corneal transplantaion can be useful in some cases of blindness due to accident or illness.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) A fortnight is celebrated every year between 28th August to 8th September to promote eye donation.

Statement

Statewise Prevalence of Blindness and Estimated blind persons

S. No.	State/UTs	Population (1991)	Prevalence* /10000 POP.	Estimated ** Blind Persons
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	66508008	150	10,88,000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	864558	123	13,500
3.	Assam	22414322	134	3,00,000
4.	Bihar	86374465	128	10,66,000
5.	Delhi	9420644	63	52,000