

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4813  
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2005  
ERADICATION OF BLINDNESS  
Chitthan Shri N.S.V.

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

- (a) the details of the cases of blindness in females and males in the country at present, State-wise;
- (b) the percentage of natural blindness and blindness developed later in the country;
- (c) the main reasons for blindness;
- (d) the level of donors of eyes in the country as on date; and
- (e) the major steps being taken to eradicate blindness in the country?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE ( SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

- a) As per the national survey on blindness (2001-02 prevalence of blindness in males was estimated to be 0.91% and in females 1.29%. Estimated number of male and female blind persons by State is given as Annexure-1.
- b) Most of the cases of blindness occurs during life-time. Congenital blindness is extremely rare.
- c) The main causes of blindness are - Cataract, Uncorrected Refractive Errors, Corneal Opacity, Glaucoma, Posterior Segment Disorders, Posterior Capsular Opacification after IOL surgery etc.
- d) Latest figure of corneal collection is about 25,000 per year.
- e) The following steps are being taken for the control of blindness:-
  1. Decentralization of the implementation of the scheme through District Blindness Control Society.
  2. Involvement of voluntary organization in various eye care activities.
  3. To make eye care comprehensive, besides cataract surgery, treatment will be provided free of cost to the poor patients for other Eye disorders also through government as well as qualified non government organizations.
  4. Screening of school going children for identification of Refractive Errors and provision of free spectacles to the poor and needy.
  5. By creating awareness among the masses about the free Eye care available in various Eye care facilities.

Annexure-1

Estimated Population of male and Female blind persons in India

S. No.	State/UT	Estimate	Estimated	Estimated
Population	Population	Population		
2004	of Male	of Female		
Blinds	Blinds			
1	Jammu & Kashmir	10069917	44902	66250
2	Himachal Pradesh	6077248	27098	39982
3	Punjab	24289296	108306	159799
4	Chandigarh	900914	4017	5927
5	Uttranchal	8479562	37810	55787
6	Haryana	21082989	94009	138705
7	Delhi	13782976	61458	90678
8	Rajasthan	56473122	251814	371537
9	Uttar Pradesh	166052859	740430	1092462
10	Bihar	82878796	369557	545260
11	Sikkim	540493	2410	3556
12	Arunachal Pradesh	1091117	4865	7178
13	Nagaland	1988636	8867	13083
14	Manipur	2388634	10651	15715
15	Mizoram	891058	3973	5862
16	Tripura	3191168	14229	20995
17	Meghalaya	2306069	10283	15172

18	Assam	26638407	118781	175254
19	West Bengal	80221171	357706	527775
20	Jharkhand	26909428	119989	177037
21	Orissa	36706920	163676	241495
22	Chhatisgarh	20795956	92729	136817
23	Madhya Pradesh	60385118	269257	397274
24	Gujarat	50596992	225612	332878
25	Daman & Diu	158059	705	1040
26	Dadar & Nagar	220451	983	1450
Haveli				
27	Maharashtra	96752247	431418	636533
28	Andhra Pradesh	75727541	337669	498211
29	Karnataka	52733958	235141	346937
30	Goa	1343998	5993	8842
31	Lakshadweep	60595	270	399
32	Kerala	31838619	141968	209466
33	Tamil Nadu	62110839	276952	408627
34	Pondicherry	973829	4342	6407
35	Andaman & Nikobar	356265	1589	2344
Islands				
Total	1027015247	4579461	6756733	

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