

(d) The State-wise monthly levy sugar quotas have been fixed on the basis of certain norms as mentioned above and are not based on the demands received from State Governments from time to time. Moreover, no demand for increase in the monthly quota was received from Maharashtra Government in recent past.

Census of the Blind People

467. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDI-QUE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether census of the blind people in India is undertaken, if so, what is the figure State-wise; and

(b) what is the estimated number of cases of blindness where surgery can help restore sight?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): (a) No census of the blind in India is undertaken. However, the 1981 census collected information *inter-alia* about totally blind persons through houselists in houselisting operations conducted during the year 1980. State-wise figures as per this operation are given in Annexure Statement.

(b) Sample Surveys carried out in different parts of the country by the Indian Council of Medical Research in 1973—75, gave an estimate of about 9 million blind persons in the country. As per this survey about 55 per cent of the blindness is due to cataract which usually occurs in old age and is curable by surgical interference. Based on this surveys, it can be said that surgery can restore eye sight in a little more than half of the total blind in the country.

Statement

State-wise number of the totally blinded as per houselisting operation conducted in 1980 for 1981 census

| | | |
|-----|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 39,902 |
| 2. | Assam | Census could not be held. |
| 3. | Bihar | 39,719 |
| 4. | Gujarat | 23,442 |
| 5. | Haryana | 7,656 |
| 6. | Himachal Pradesh | 3,924 |
| 7. | Jammu and Kashmir | 3,891 |
| 8. | Karnataka | 18,106 |
| 9. | Kerala | 8,178 |
| 10. | Madhya Pradesh | 53,451 |
| 11. | Maharashtra | 36,964 |
| 12. | Manipur | 620 |
| 13. | Meghalaya | 1,117 |
| 14. | Nagaland | 518 |
| 15. | Orissa | 27,625 |
| 16. | Punjab | 5,047 |
| 17. | Rajasthan | 46,465 |
| 18. | Sikkim | 182 |
| 19. | Tamil Nadu | 29,215 |
| 20. | Tripura | 1,521 |
| 21. | Uttar Pradesh | 93,618 |
| 22. | West Bengal | 29,155 |

| | | |
|----|-----------------------------|-------|
| 1. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 69 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 738 |
| 3. | Chandigarh | 98 |
| 4. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 98 |
| 5. | Delhi | 1,962 |
| 6. | Goa, Daman & Diu | 463 |
| 7. | Lakshadweep Islands | 75 |
| 8. | Mizoram | 366 |
| 9. | Pondicherry | 480 |