

Blindness eradication in U.P. and Rajasthan

†685. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated/propose to formulate any scheme to gear up National Blindness Eradication Programme in tribal areas of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, with the World Bank assistance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount allocated for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]:

(a) to (c) Under the National Programme for Control of Blindness, financial assistance mobilized from the World Bank for the period 1994—2001, is being utilized for implementing activities such as free Cataract Surgery through Govt./NGO facilities. Construction of Eye Wards and operation theaters, Supply of Eye Care equipments and consumables, Training of personnel in eye care, Public awareness & outreach services etc. in all districts including the tribal areas, of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

No separate allocation exclusively for tribal areas has been made.

New Health Policy

686. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new Health Policy is on the anvil;

(b) if so, whether Government would take extra care to look after health care of senior citizens and for control of resurgence of traditional diseases like TB, Malaria, etc.; and

(c) the other salient features proposed to be included to help poorer citizens and to check spread of the disease?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.