

bionic spectacles integrate the use of mini-sized cameras and a pocket computer to give the wearer indications about any object in their way. Using these glasses, the blind will find it possible to do the basic tasks like finding their way on crowded roads, read bus numbers among others.

- (c) There is no authentic report about the availability of Bionic spectacles in Indian market.

Cheap device for detecting cataract

2244. SHRI SABIR ALI:

SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that a cheap device has been developed to detect cataract;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) by when this device will be available throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY): (a) to (c) Advanced cataract can be detected by an eye specialist initially with the help of a simple torch. However, for the all types of cataract, Direct Ophthalmoscope remains a reliable and cheap device routinely used by eye specialists with wide proven results. There is no other reliable cheaper device available as of today to detect cataract.

Grants for upgradation of medical institutions in Maharashtra

2245. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK:

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

- (a) whether Government has received any proposals from the State Government of Maharashtra for the sanctioning of grants under Prime Minister Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) for the upgradation of Government medical institutions;
- (b) if so, the details of the proposals pending with Government for the financial grant indicating the reasons behind the delay to provide grants; and
- (c) by when Government will grant permission providing financial grants to the said institutions?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes. Proposals were received from State Government of Maharashtra for grant of financial assistance for upgradation of the following 7 medical college institutions in the State:

1. Shri Vasantrao Naik Government Medical College, Yavatmal;
2. Government Medical College and Hospital, Akola;
3. Shri Bhausaheb Hire Government Medical College, Dhule;
4. Dr. Shanrao Chavan Medical College and Guru Govind Singh Hospital, Nanded;
5. Dr. Vaishampayan Memorial Government Medical College and Chatrpati Shivaji Maharaj General Hospital, Solapur;
6. Government Medical College and Hospital, Latur; and
7. B.J. Medical College and Sassoon General Hospitals, Pune.

There is no provision for grant of financial assistance for upgradation of the ' above institutions under the PMSSY at present. However, in the State of Maharashtra, Central Government has taken up upgradation of the Grants Medical College, Mumbai in the first phase and of Government Medical College, Nagpur in the second phase of PMSSY.

(c) Does not arise.

**Solution for global health issues through
Indian models and ideas**

†2246. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item titled Indian ideas and models can help solve global health problem quoted by Melinda Gates as published in the Economic Times dated 23 March, 2011;

(b) if so, whether the above view of Melinda Gates has been studied by Government;

(c) if so, whether Government has reached any conclusion; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.