

Sl. No.	State/UT/Division	Total No. of hospitals (Govt.)
31.	D&N Haveli	3
32.	Daman & Diu	4
33.	Delhi	109
34.	Lakshadweep	3
35.	Puducherry	53

#### Lost of eyesights after attending eye camps

1408. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that several people mostly the poor and senior citizens lost their eyesight in the eye camps held in Punjab and Himachal Pradesh recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) what action Government has taken on these incidents?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) and (b) The details are given below:-

#### (i) Recent Eye mishap at Punjab:

Director, Health & Family Welfare, Punjab has reported that SKM Netralaya, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh organized screening eye camps in four villages falling in Hoshiarpur, Gurdaspur and Amritsar districts of Punjab in association with Guru Nanak Charitable Hospital, Ghuman, District Gurdaspur in October-November, 2014 and got 130 patients operated for cataract in the Operation Theatre of Guru Nanak Charitable Hospital, Ghuman, Punjab between 31.10.2014 to 4.11.2014. No permission was obtained by NGO for screening and surgeries as required under rules from the local authorities. On 4.12.2014, several persons appeared before the District Collector, Amritsar complaining of serious complications as a result of the cataract surgery, who got them, admitted to Ram Lal Eye Hospital, Government Medical College, Amritsar, Punjab.

A team from PGI, Chandigarh was rushed to the Government Medical College, Amritsar for assisting the GMC team in providing all possible latest tech. treatment.

Out of 40 patients who had presented themselves at Government Medical College, Amritsar, 29 lost their eye sight in operated eye.

**(ii) Eye mishap at Himachal Pradesh**

State Programme Officer (NPCB), Himachal Pradesh has reported that an eye screening camp of patients was organized by Nagni Mata Prabandhak Committee from 22.3.2014 to 29.3.2014 at its complex at Baranda, Kandwal, Tehsil Nurpur, district Kangra, Himachal Pradesh through Salaria Eye Hospital, Pathankot, Punjab. The 60 patients, selected for cataract surgery, were shifted to the Salaria Eye Hospital, Pathankot, Punjab for their eye operations by the committee at its own. No eye operations were conducted anywhere within the territorial jurisdiction of the State of Himachal Pradesh.

In this regard an enquiry was ordered on 19.12.2014 by CMO, Kangra. During the course of enquiry, out of 60 surgeries performed by Dr. Nitin Salaria, Salaria Eye Hospital, Pathankot, Punjab, 21 patients were examined and it was found that eyes of 15 patients were totally damaged, 5 patients were normal and one needs vitreoretinal surgeon opinion at higher centre.

As per the statement of Dr. Nitin Salaria, operating surgeon, Salaria Hospital, Pathankot and the records submitted by him, it was the HPMC 2% eye drop that were responsible for the infections (endophthalmitis).

(c) The detail are given below:

**(i) Action taken by the Government of Punjab**

Government of Punjab ordered a high level probe into the eye mishap. As per report of the Committee of experts constituted to ascertain the cause of eye infection leading to loss of sight of some of the operated patients at the camp organized by the NGO at village Ghuman of District Gurdaspur, the most probable cause of mass infection in the eye camp at village Ghuman can be because of contaminated irrigating fluids and/or contaminated operating instruments. An interim relief of ₹ One Lakh to each of the affected families, whose members have lost eyesight in the tragedy, has been announced by the State Government. A monthly pension of ₹ 2000/- to each person rendered blind in this camp has also been announced.

**(ii) Action taken by the Government of Himachal Pradesh**

In this regard an enquiry was ordered on 19.12.2014 by CMO, Kangra.

All the Chief Medical Officers of the Districts in Himachal Pradesh have been directed to follow the guidelines of the Government of India for granting permission for organizing eye camps in the State. All the Non-Governmental Organizations and Voluntary Organizations working in Himachal Pradesh approved under NPCB need to sign a MoU with the district authorities concerned as per the existing guidelines.

**(iii) Action taken by the the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**

Referring the provision of guidelines issued under the National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB), an advisory was issued to all States/UTs regarding precaution to be followed on Ophthalmic Surgeries to avoid cases of loss of vision. This advisory state, *inter alia*, that eye operations are to be done only in fixed operation theatres exclusive for eye surgeries. Camps are permitted only for screening of patients and bringing them to the base hospital for eye surgeries. All NGOs and voluntary organizations approved under NPCB need to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the district authority as per the Guidelines issued under NPCB.

The advisory also states that all the other NGOs operating but not registered under NPCB are required to obtain the necessary permissions from the State Health authorities for approval of the hospital for OPD work and the operation theatres for conducting eye surgeries. The State authorities need to develop their own guidelines/mechanism for this purpose. In case of any negligence on the part of voluntary organizations, appropriate penal action should be taken by the State authorities against them.

All the Government and private eye surgeons in all districts of States/UTs have been sensitized to strictly adhere to norms of NPCB and observe universal surgical precautions.

**Separate Cadre of Indian Medical Services**

1409. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 116 given in the Rajya Sabha on 15th July, 2014 and state:

- (a) the updated status of action taken by the Ministry on the two representations referred to it by the DoPT;
- (b) whether the Ministry has sought comments of the State Governments, other stakeholders like MCI and IMA etc. on the issue;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government would take initiative and call upon State Governments to explore the possibility of creating a separate cadre Indian Medical Services, so as to facilitate availability of quality medical personnel in the State; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) to (e) The representations were referred to Department of