



# Cataract Patients

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As per the National Survey 2006-07 conducted under the National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB) by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, there were around 12 million blind persons (Visual Acuity<6/60) including blindness due to Cataract in the Country. A statement showing estimated number of blind persons in the country, State/UT-wise, due to various eye diseases including Cataract is given below:

Estimated Blind Persons in India-2006-07					
S.No.	State/UTs	Prevalence of Blindness (Survey 2001-02)	Estimated Blind Persons (Visual Acuity <6/60)	Estimated blind persons due to cataract (62.6% of total blindness)	
1	ANDAMAN & NICOBAR	1.10	3919	2453	
2	ANDHRA PRADESH	1.42	1075331	673157	
3	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	2.28	24877	15573	
4	ASSAM	3.05	812471	508607	
5	BIHAR	0.78	646455	404681	
6	CHANDIGARH	1.01	9099	5696	
7	CHHATISGARH	1.61	334815	209594	
8	DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI	1.07	2359	1477	
9	DAMAN & DIU	1.07	1691	1059	
10	DELHI	1.13	155748	97498	
11	GOA	1.52	20429	12788	
12	GUJARAT	1.07	541388	338909	
13	HARYANA	1.89	398468	249441	
14	HIMACHAL PRADESH	0.70	42541	26631	
15	JAMMU & KASHMIR	1.61	162126	101491	
16	JHARKHAND	1.41	379423	237519	

17	KARNATAKA	1.78	938664	587604
18	KERALA	0.56	178296	111613
19	LAKSHADWEEP	1.10	667	417
20	MADHYA PRADESH	1.16	700467	438493
21	MAHARASHTRA	0.95	919146	575386
22	MANIPUR	1.38	32963	20635
23	MEGHALAYA	0.74	17065	10683
24	MIZORAM	0.78	6950	4351
25	NAGALAND	1.05	20881	13071
26	ODISHA	1.40	513897	321699
27	PONDICHERRY	0.78	7596	4755
28	PUNJAB	1.01	245322	153572
29	RAJASTHAN	1.55	875333	547959
30	SIKKIM	0.65	3513	2199
31	TAMIL NADU	0.78	484465	303275
32	TRIPURA	0.77	24572	
33	UTTAR PRADESH	0.94	1560897	977121
34	UTTARAKHAND	0.56	47486	29726
35	WEST BENGAL	1.19	954632	597600
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1.10</b>	<b>12143952</b>	<b>7586732</b>

In the pattern of assistance approved by the Empowered Programme Committee (EPC) in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, a target of 330 lakh cataract surgeries with an annual target 66 lakh cataract surgeries was fixed under NPCB during the 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan (2012-2017). A statement showing annual targets for cataract surgeries, State/UT-wise, in the year 2016-17 is given below:

The number of cataract cases would be many times higher as this is the estimate of cataract cases in blind persons.

Target for Cataract surgery-2016-17	
States/UTs	Cataract Operations
Major States	Target
Andhra Pradesh	327688
Bihar	421309
Chattisgarh	168565
Goa	9621
Gujarat	399632

Haryana	167330
Himachal Pradesh	27769
Jammu & Kashmir	82331
Jharkhand	217577
Karnataka	404563
Kerala	136120
Madhya Pradesh	480244
Maharashtra	456011
Orissa	276853
Punjab	183948
Rajasthan	453999
Tamil Nadu	293063
Telangana	231105
Uttar Pradesh	808305
Uttarakhand	40973
West Bengal	603995
<b>North Eastern States</b>	
Arunachal Pradesh	9125
Assam	205717
Manipur	17964
Meghalaya	12004
Mizoram	4419
Nagaland	13072
Sikkim	2461
Tripura	14868
<b>UTs</b>	
A &N Nicobar Islands	2508
Chandigarh	6961
D&N Haveli	2263

Daman & Diu	1603
Delhi	110571
Lakshdweep	425
Puducherry	5040
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>6600000</b>

Cataract is mainly an age related diseases, which can be controlled by adopting appropriate measures and surgical procedures. Due to increase in population and life expectancy, the number of new cases of Cataract is likely to increase.

However, NPCB in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is committed to reduce the burden of avoidable blindness in the country including blindness due to cataract to 0.3% by the year 2020 by adopting the following strategies:.

- Decentralized implementation of NPCB through State/District Health Societies for close monitoring and supervision;
- Reduction in the backlog of blind persons by active screening of population above 50 years, organizing eye screening camps and transporting operable cases to fixed eye-care facilities for operation/treatment;
- Involvement of private practitioners in eye care services;
- In-service training to eye surgeons in various fields of ophthalmology to refresh and develop clinical and surgical skills including Cataract;
- Strengthening/developing of eye-care infrastructure at various levels to improve quantity and quality of eye-care services;
- Provision for setting up Multipurpose District Mobile ophthalmic Units in District Hospitals to improve coverage area.

The Minister of State (Health and Family Welfare), SmtAnupriya Patel stated this in a written reply in the LokSabha here today.

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MV/LK

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