

FAQ For National Programme for Control of Blindness

- Que. 1 Are there any synthetic substitutes for the cornea?
- Ans So far no substitutes have been developed for the cornea.
- Que. 2 Facts about eye donation?
- Ans i) The eyes have to be removed within six hours of death. So the nearest eye bank or eye collection centre must be informed immediately irrespective of the initial pledging of eye donation.
- ii) Eye removal takes only 10-15 minutes and leaves no scar or disfigurement of the face.
- iii) Only the cornea is transplanted for all practical purpose and not the entire eyeball. However, other part of eye is used for research and education purpose.
- iv) Eye donation gives sight to two blind persons. One blind person is given one eye.
- v) The donated corneas are transplanted to patients eye who are waiting list in accordance with the priority based on guidelines to avoid malpractices.
- vi) The eyes are never bought or sold. Eye donation is never refused.
- Que. 3 [How many medical colleges are offering postgraduate courses in India?](#)
- Ans Kindly see website of Medical Council of India [www.mciindia.org]
- Que. 4 [How many postgraduate seats \[Degree/Diploma/DNB\]?](#)
- Ans Kindly see website of Medical Council of India [www.mciindia.org] OR
- Kindly see website of National Board of Examination [www.natboard.edu.in]
- Que. 5 [What are common eye symptoms amongst school going Children?](#)
- Ans i) Inability to see letter clearly.
- ii) Letters in a line may appear superimposed or zigzag.
- iii) Writing on the blackboard or cinema cannot be seen unless they are sitting very close.
- iv) Strain to the eye by continuous reading/working on computers/watching television causes headache, tiredness, pain or watering in the eye.
- v) Unclear/blurred vision.
- vi) Inability to see objects clearly in dim light/night blindness.

Que. 6 [What are main causes of blindness in India?](#)

Ans

Sr. No.	Disease	Percentage
1	Cataract	62.60 %
2	Refractive errors	19.70 %
3	Glaucoma	05.80 %
4	Posterior segment disorder	04.70 %
5	Surgical Complication	01.20 %
6	Corneal blindness	0.90 %
7	Posterior capsular opacification	0.90 %
8	Others	4.19 %

Que. 7 [What are the objectives of National Programme for Control of Blindness?](#)

Ans The objectives of the programme are:

- To reduce the backlog of blindness through identification and treatment of blind.
- To develop eye care facilities in every district.
- To develop human resource for providing eye care services.
- To improve quality of service delivery.
- To secure participation of voluntary organization in eye care.

Que. 8 [What are the reasons for prevalence of blindness in India?](#)

Ans The major reasons are:

- The overall increase in the size of the population.
- The life expectancy for both males and females has steadily increased.
- A major proportion of aged population in rural areas have poor access to eye care facilities in India.
- Inadequate availability of trained health personnel. Further, the services of available ophthalmic surgeons in the country are not being adequately utilized. Many ophthalmologists are purely working in administrative jobs and similar proportion is posted at peripheral units with no ophthalmic equipments.
- The poor nutritional status of mothers and young children predisposes the pre-school children to nutrition blindness. However, it is heartening to note that prevalence of nutritional blindness has decreased tremendously over the past few years.
- Adverse environmental conditions and domestic unhygienic conditions predispose to high infection rates.
- Lack of community awareness and poor health seeking behavior.
- The prevalence of myths and misconception about surgeries hamper the achievement of programme objectives.

Que. 9 [What are the schemes available for participation of Voluntary Organisation?](#)

Ans The schemes available under NPCB are [for detail, kindly see NGO guidelines]:

- Non-recurring grant in aid for expansion/upgradation of eye care units.
- Non-recurring grant in aid for setting up/strengthening of eye bank & eye donation centers.
- Non-recurring grant in aid for setting up/strengthening vision centers.
- Recurring grant in aid for performing free cataract operations in hospital.
- Recurring grant in aid to eye banks and eye donation centres.

Que. 10 [What are the strategies of Government to tackle the blindness?](#)

Ans Strategies of Government to tackle the blindness are:

- Comprehensive eye care services addressing major blinding causes: cataract, refractive errors and low vision, childhood blindness, corneal blindness, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy etc.
- Development of eye care services and improvement in quality of eye care by training of personnel, supply of high tech equipments, strengthening follow up services and monitoring of services.
- Decentralized implementation of the schemes through state and district health societies.
- Reduction in backlog of blind persons active screening of population over 50 years, organizing screening camps and transporting operable cases to eye care facilities.
- Involvement of voluntary organization in various NPCB activities.
- Participation of community and Panchayati raj institutions in organizing services in the rural area.
- Screening of school going children for identification and treatment or refractive errors, with special attention to under served areas.
- Promoting eye donation, processing and utilization of donated eyes for treatment of corneal blindness.
- Special focus of illiterate women in rural areas, convergence with ongoing schemes for development of women and children.
- Free treatment to poor patients through qualified government and non-governmental organizations.
- Public awareness about prevention and timely treatment of eye ailments.

Que. 11 [What are the types of blindness?](#)

Ans

S. No.	Types	Remarks
1	Economic blindness	As described above
2	Social blindness	Vision 3/60 or diminution of field of vision

		to 10°
3	Manifest blindness	Vision 1/60 to just perception of light
4	Absolute blindness	No perception of light
5	Curable blindness	That stage of blindness where the damage is reversible by prompt management e.g. cataract
6	Preventable blindness	The loss of blindness that could have been completely prevented by institution of effective preventive or prophylactic measures e.g. xerophthalmia, trachoma, and glaucoma
7	Avoidable blindness	The sum total of preventable or curable blindness is often referred to as avoidable blindness.

Que. 12 [What is cataract?](#)

Ans Cataract is a term applied when the human lens loses its transparency and become opacified. Hence the light cannot pass through the lens so as to produce a clear image.

Que. 13 [What is cornea?](#)

Ans The cornea is a transparent watch glass like structure, spherical in shape present in front of the eyes. Vision can be dramatically reduced if the cornea becomes cloudy from inherited disease, injury, infections, chemical burns, congenital disease etc.

Que. 14 [What is eye bank?](#)

Ans Eye bank is an organization, which deals with the collection, storage and distribution of the donor eyes for the purpose of corneal grafting, research and supply of eye tissue for other ophthalmic purpose.

Que. 15 [What is the definition of blindness under NPCB?](#)

Ans Blindness is defined under following headings:

Simple Definition:

- Inability of a person to count fingers from a distance of 6 meters or 20 feet
Technical Definition.
- Vision 6/60 or less with the best possible spectacle correction.
- Diminution of field vision to 20° or less in better eye.

Que. 16 [What is WHO definition of blindness?](#)

Ans For International comparison, WHO has defined blindness at the level of 3/60 or inability to count fingers at a distance of 3 meters or 10 feet.

Que. 17 [When was the first eye bank established in India?](#)

Ans In India, the first eye bank was established in 1945 at Madras [Chennai] and Dr. Dhanda of Indore carried the first successful corneal transplantation in 1960.

Que. 18 [Who can donate eyes?](#)

Ans Almost anyone at any age can pledge to donate eyes after “Death”. This can be done even if donor wear glasses, has cataract or has undergone eye surgery successfully.