

**Seventeenth Loksabha**

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**Title: Need to take steps to control road accidents**

**SHRI BELLANA CHANDRA SEKHAR (VIZIANAGARAM):** Thank you, hon. Chairperson, Sir. Road accidents have caused 1.5 lakh deaths each year since 2015. The accidental death rate in India is 18.9 per 1,00,000 people. The country loses 3 per cent of its GDP due to road accidents. These figures show that road safety is a matter of serious concern for India. Poor road infrastructure, delay in ambulance medical services and unauthorised speed breakers are the major reasons.

Human resource, budget constraint of Public Works Department as well as failure of civic agencies to coordinate with and poor traffic rules enforcement also add to the high death rates due to road accidents.

The Central Government has introduced policies and legislations to lower deaths due to accidents including the National Road Safety Policy. However, more steps can be taken. I would like to suggest some solutions like 10 per cent of the funds of PWD must be earmarked for maintenance of roads. National Safety Board must be made operational. Transport Data Centre at the national level should conduct applied research on roads

Accountability of contractors responsible for construction of road, streamlining medical services and other agencies to avoid delay in providing medical attention during the golden hour can reduce the deaths.

Further, I request for vehicle safety features such as electronic stability control, effective Car Crash Standards, and advanced braking be made mandatory in cars with less than 4 airbags.