

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:3  
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2002  
ROAD ACCIDENTS  
MAHESHWAR SINGH;NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

**Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether there has been constant increase in the number of road accidents on National Highways;
- (b) if so, the factors responsible therefor;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to check the increasing road accidents;
- (d) the percentage decrease in road accidents owing to steps taken by the Government;
- (e) whether the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has asked the oil companies to move petrol pumps away from National Highways to reduce the road accidents;
- (f) if so, the details of the guidelines issued in this regard;
- (g) the reaction of the oil companies thereto; and
- (h) the extent to which the shifting of petrol pumps from National Highways are likely to reduce the road accidents ?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD KHANDURI)

(a) to (h): A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (h) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 3 FOR ANSWER ON 15.7.2002 REGARDING ROAD ACCIDENTS ASKED BY SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH AND SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

(a) to (d) : As per information available the number of road accidents per thousand motor vehicles on National Highways has been decreasing over the last few years as given below ;

Year	Population of Vehicles all categories ( in thousand )	No. of Accidents on National Highways	Accidents per thousand vehicle
1996	33783	89046 (P)	2.64
1997	37231	94014 (P)	2.53
1998	40939	98690 (P)	2.41
1999	45000 (Provisional)	103839	2.31

P= Provisional (information awaited from some States)

Analysis of road accidents reveals that about 83.5% of accidents are on account of fault of drivers. Condition of vehicles, roads etc. are some of the other factors that also contribute to accidents. Several road safety measures have been taken up. These include

(1) About 15,750 drivers of heavy motor vehicles have been provided refresher training in the last Plan period.

- (2) Publicity campaigns on road safety awareness through audio-visual-print media.
- (3) Grants-in-aid is provided to voluntary organizations for administering road safety programmes.
- (4) Use of simulators in driver's training is encouraged
- (5) National Award instituted for voluntary organizations/individuals for outstanding work in the field of road safety.
- (6) All India Essay Competition on road safety are organized for school children for creating awareness among the school children.
- (7) Fitness norms for transport vehicles have been tightened.
- (8) Widening /improvement of roads

(e) to (h) : National Highways Authority has not asked oil companies to move Petrolpumps away from National Highways. However, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, in consultation of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and the oil companies is finalizing guidelines regarding the layout for access to the fuel stations on National Highways, for reducing accidents. This has been felt necessary as higher speed due to improved road conditions and increase in the number of motor vehicles necessitate a free flow of traffic on highways. In the absence of proper lay-out of fuel stations, access and exit to highways obstructs traffic and thereby endangers safety of road users.