

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:168
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2008
ROAD ACCIDENTS
Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether road accidents are increasing in the country including metropolitan cities during each of the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any study or set up any committee in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details of recommendations thereof and;
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to check such accidents in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS(SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a) & (b): As per information compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), a total of 361343, 390378 and 394432 cases of road accidents were reported in the country during 2004, 2005 and 2006 respectively, indicating an increasing trend during this period. In the four metropolitan cities, the total number of reported cases of road accidents were 18595, 23132 and 22274 during 2004, 2005 and 2006 respectively, indicating a mixed trend.

The State-wise details regarding the number of cases of road accidents during 2004 to 2006, as compiled by the NCRB, are enclosed at Annexure-I. Details of the number of cases of road accidents in the four metropolitan cities during 2004 to 2006, as compiled by the NCRB, are enclosed at Annexure-II.

(c) & (d): A Research project R-64 titled `Establishment of System for Identification and Rectification of Accident Black Spots` was undertaken by the Government in the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport & Highways (Department of Road Transport & Highways) in the year 1995. The study arrived at the following conclusions :-

- i) Maximum number of accidents, especially, fatal accidents are found to occur on straight stretches due to high speed.
 - ii) Four arm junctions were found to be most vulnerable mainly due to insufficient site distance, lack of traffic guidance, absence of road markings and poor road geometrics.
 - iii) Head on collisions are found to be maximum due to high speed and bad overtaking practice.
 - iv) Pedestrians are most vulnerable victims due to insufficient pedestrian facilities and poor knowledge of traffic rules. Pedestrians are ranked second in making errors and one of the main causes of accidents.
 - v) Driver error is found to be main cause of many accidents.
 - vi) Maximum number of casualties are observed by car, followed by pedestrians and then by heavy goods vehicles.
 - vii) During night time trucks are involved in maximum number of accidents.
 - viii) The share of negligence and over-speeding in accidents is found to be as high as 90%.
- As per directions of the Committee on Infrastructure chaired by the Prime Minister, a Committee was set up to deliberate and recommend creation of a dedicated body on Road Safety and Traffic Management under the Chairmanship of Shri S. Sundar, Sr. Fellow, The Energy Research Institute. The Committee submitted its report on 20.02.2007. The main recommendations of the Committee include:-

- i) Creation of an apex body i.e., National Road Safety & Traffic Management Board at National level to promote road safety and improve traffic management in India with members/ experts from the field of Road Engineering, Automobile Engineering, Traffic Laws, Medical care etc. through an Act of Parliament. The funding of this Board would also be governed by the Act.
- ii) The proposed Board would have regulatory as well as advisory functions.
- iii) The Board would set standards, designs for mechanically propelled vehicles and also set safety standards in consultation with Indian Road Congress for the design, construction and operation of the National Highways including road infrastructure and furniture

as their regulatory functions.

iv) In its advisory role, the Board would advise Government on various road safety aspects.

v) Creation of similar State level bodies.

(e): Ensuring the safety of road users is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, the Government of India in the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport & Highways (Department of Road Transport & Highways) has taken several steps to improve road safety for road users and these are as under:

i) It is ensured that road safety is the integral part of road design at the planning stage for National Highways/Expressways.

ii) Various steps to enhance road safety such as road furniture, road markings/road signs, introduction of Highway Traffic Management System using Intelligent Transport System, enhancement of discipline among contractors during construction, road safety audit on selected stretches, have been undertaken by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

iii) Refresher training to Heavy Motor Vehicle drivers in the unorganized sector.

iv) Involvement of NGOs for road safety activities.

v) Setting up of Model Driving Training School in the country.

vi) Publicity campaign on road safety awareness through audio-visual-print media.

vii) Institution of National Award for voluntary organizations/individuals for outstanding work in the field of road safety.

viii) Tightening of safety standards of vehicles.

ix) Providing cranes and ambulances to various State Governments/NGOs under National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme. National Highways Authority of India also provides ambulances at a distance of 50 Km. on each of its completed highways under its Operation & Maintenance contracts.

x) Widening and improvements of National Highways from 2 lanes to 4 lanes and 4 lanes to 6 lanes etc.