

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5130

ANSWERED ON:30.04.2008

ROAD ACCIDENTS

Meghwal Shri Kailash

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

- (a) whether the National Road Safety Council/Planning Commission have assessed the social cost of road accidents;
- (b) if so, the details of losses of lives and properties due to road accidents; and
- (c) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA)

(a) The Working Group set up by Planning Commission in the year 2000 chaired by Shri Prakash Narain, Former Chairman, Railway Board had assessed the social cost of road accidents in the country in the year 1999-2000 at Rs. 55,000 crores, which constituted about 3% of the Gross Domestic Product(GDP) of the country for the year.

(b) As per the report by the States/UTs, the number of persons killed in the road accidents on All Roads during the years 2004,2005 and 2006 (the latest available data) are as under:-

Year	Persons killed in Road Accidents
2004	92618
2005	94968
2006	105749

(Provisional)

The details regarding loss of properties due to road accidents are not compiled by this Ministry.

(c) The safety of road users is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, this Department has taken several steps to improve road safety, which are given below:

- (i) 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 the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).
- (iii) Refresher training to Heavy Motor Vehicle drivers in the unorganized sector.
- (iv) Involvement of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for road safety activities by the Department of Road Transport and Highways and NHAI.
- (v) Setting up of Model Driving Training School in the country by the Department of Road Transport and Highways.
- (vi) Publicity campaign on road safety awareness through audio-visual-print media by the Department of Road Transport and Highways.
- (vii) Conferring of National Award for voluntary organizations/individual for outstanding work in the field of road safety by Department of Road Transport and Highways.
- (viii) Tightening of safety standards of vehicles.
- (ix) Provision of cranes and ambulances to various State Governments/NGOs under National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme by Department of Road Transport & Highways.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.