

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:345

ANSWERED ON:20.04.2010

COMMUTER SAFETY ON NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

Mahendrasinh Shri Chauhan ;Panda Shri Baijayant

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

- (a) whether various steps taken by the Government for commuter safety on the National Highways in the country have helped to reduce accidents and fatalities on the National Highways in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to strengthen commuter safety measures including alignment of road safety rules with those of international standards and setting up of call centres on all National Highways in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has identified stretches/portions of National Highways in the country recording high number of road accidents; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS (SHRI KAMAL NATH)

(a) to (f): The Government has been taking continuous steps to strengthen commuter safety including alignment of road safety rules with those of International standards prepared by the Indian Road Congress from time to time. To further strengthen road safety activities, the Government has decided to set up National Road Safety and Traffic Management Board.

A detailed statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.345 FOR ANSWER ON 20-04-2010 BY DR. MAHENDRASEVH P. CHAUHAN & SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA REGARDING COMMUTER SAFETY ON NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

(a) & (b): During the year 2008 (the latest available data) while the total number of road accidents reported on National Highways (NHs) has decreased marginally, the number of persons killed in road accidents on National Highways has increased marginally as compared to those reported in the year 2007. State wise break up of number of road accidents, number of persons killed and number of persons injured on National Highways (including express-ways) for the year 2006 to 2008 (the latest available data) is given at Annexure-I, II and III respectively.

(c) & (d): Yes Sir. The Government has been taking continuous steps to strengthen commuter safety including alignment of road safety rules with those of International standards prepared by the Indian Road Congress from time to time. The Government has decided to set up National Road Safety and Traffic Management Board which will take appropriate measures to further strengthen road safety activities.

(e) to (f): No Sir. Road accident data is compiled in the Ministry in a format developed as per the Asia Pacific Road Accident Database (APRAD) project of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific (UNESCAP). In this format, the specific stretch wise/portion wise National Highway Road Accident Data is not compiled.

Enforcement of Road Transport matters is the primary responsibility of the concerned State Governments, However, considering the large number of road accidents including the fatal ones in the country, the Ministry has taken several corrective measures to improve road safety activities for road users such as constructing flyovers, underpasses, bypasses/service roads, bus/truck layby, road markings, signages, crash barriers , raised pavement markers, lighting in urban areas/bridges/flyovers, speed retarders on cross roads on junctions, pedestrian facilities like zebra crossings, pedestrian underpasses, footover bridges, pedestrian guard rails etc. Besides tow away vehicles for removing break down/damaged vehicles, ambulances to provide immediate first aid during golden hour to the accident victims and subsequent transfer to the nearest hospital/trauma care centre are available on the National Highways.