

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1373

ANSWERED ON:16.11.2010

ACCIDENTS ON NHS AND EXPRESSWAYS

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

- (a) whether as per a report of the World Road Statistics, India is having one of the highest road accidents and fatalities in the world;
- (b) if so, the details of accident and Fatalities on the National Highways (NHs) and Expressways in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, state-wise, UT-wise and category-wise;
- (c) the amount of compensation presently being paid to the victims of road accidents;
- (d) whether the Government is considering to increase the amount of compensation for such victims;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the names of Non-Governmental Organisations identified for conducting road safety drive, State-wise and the extent to which same has been successful?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS (SHRI MAHADEO SINGH KHANDELA)

(a): As per the World Road Statistics (WRS) 2009, brought out by the International Road Federation, (IRF) Geneva, United States of America had reported the highest number of injury accidents (17,48,435) in the world followed by Japan (8,32,454) and India (4,79,219) respectively for the year 2007. India had reported the highest number of fatalities in Road Accidents (114444) followed by China (81649) during 2007.

(b): The number of road accidents and fatalities on National Highways and Expressways, State-wise and UT-wise for the years 2006-2008 (the latest available data) is at Annexure. Specific NH-wise data of road accidents is not compiled in the Ministry.

(c): The Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 provides for compensation to the road accident victims/ dependents as per the details given below:-

(i) Compensation in hit-and-run cases:-

Death Rs.25,000/-
Grievous Hurt Rs.12,500/-

(ii) Compensation on "No fault principle".

Compensation to road accident victims on 'no fault principle' (i.e where the victims or their heirs/successors do not have to prove the negligence of the driver of the motor vehicle causing the accident to claim such compensation) is given as per the Structured Compensation Formula prescribed under the Act. The amount of compensation depends upon the age and annual income of the victim. The maximum amount of compensation in respect of permanent disability and death respectively comes to Rs. 7,20,000/- and Rs. 4,80,000/- (reduced by 1/3rd in consideration of the expenses which the victim would have incurred towards maintaining himself had he been alive). To the amount thus determined, certain general damages like funeral expenses, loss of consortium (i.e spouse), medical expenses, pain and sufferings(in case of injury) etc. are added.

(iii) Compensation on " Fault principle".

The Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 also allows application for compensation to Motor Accident Claim Tribunal (MACT) or Civil Court, as the case may be, on the principle of fault/negligence of the driver of the vehicle causing the accident. In such cases, MACT or the Courts award compensation on the merit of the case.

(d) & (e): Government has set up an Expert Committee to review the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 in a comprehensive manner. Based on the recommendations of the Expert Committee, the Government may consider the increase in compensation amount in case of road accidents.

(f): This Ministry has a scheme titled "Two days refresher training to heavy motor vehicle drivers in unorganized sector" to inculcate safe driving habits and to acquaint the heavy vehicle drivers with the rules on road. The Ministry has decided to conduct the training in States/UTs through eminent organizations and Driver Training Schools such as Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM); All India Motor Transport Congress (AIMTC); Automobile Association of Upper India; Krishna District Lorry Association, Training Institute on Driving & Research Centre, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh; Training Institute on Driving Research, (IDTR), Sarai Kale Khan, New Delhi; Training Institute on Driving Research Bellary, Karnataka and Driver Training Institute of Nagaland State Transport, Dimapur, Nagaland. During the financial year 2009-10, AIMTC had conducted the refresher training programme for 5000 HMV Drivers successfully through its member association in the States/UTs viz. Andhra Pradesh, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Chandigarh.

The benefits of the training given to the drivers can only be assessed in real terms once the properly trained drivers gradually replace the existing drivers of vehicles plying in the country. This scheme is a long term measure essential to ensure road safety.