

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:381

ANSWERED ON:07.12.2010

ACCIDENTS ON NATIONAL EXPRESS HIGHWAYS

Krishnaswamy Shri M.;Sivasami Shri C.

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of a large number of accidents at various National/ ExpressHighways in the country;
- (b) if so, the number of fatal accidents reported including hit and run cases since 2008, year-wise;
- (c) the action taken by the Government to prevent road accidents alongwith the steps taken to step up compensation for the victims;
- (d) whether the Committee on Road Safety and Traffic Management has suggested setting up of the National Road Safety and Traffic Management Board for improving road safety;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the other recommendations made by the Committee; and
- (f) the follow-up action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS (SHRI KAMAL NATH)

(a) to (f) A 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. 381 FOR ANSWER ON 7TH DECEMBER 2010 ASKED BY SHRI M. KRISHNASSWAMY AND SHRI SIVASAMI C. REGARDING ACCIDENTS ON NATIONAL/EXPRESS HIGHWAYS.

(a) & (b) The total number of fatal accidents reported on National Highways (including Expressways) for the year 2008 (the latest available data) in the country was 37096 resulting in death of 42670 persons which is a large number. Specific information on hit and run cases are not collected from/ reported by State Police Authorities. The information for the year 2009 onwards has not been compiled yet.

(c) Government has set up an Expert Committee to review the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 in a comprehensive manner. The issue of enhancement of compensation will be examined along with other proposals on receipt of recommendation of the Expert Committee. In order to reduce the accidents on road, this Ministry has taken several steps to improve road safety for road users in general, which are as under:

(i) Road safety is an 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, and enhancement of discipline among contractors during construction, road safety audit on selected stretches, have been undertaken by National Highways Authority of India.

(iii) Refresher training to Heavy Motor Vehicle drivers in the unorganized sector being implemented by the Ministry since 1997-98 under plan activities.

(iv) Setting up of Driving Training Schools in the country.

(v) Publicity campaign on road safety awareness both through the audio-visual and print media.

(vi) Institution of National Award for voluntary organizations/individual for outstanding work in the field of road safety.

(vii) Tightening of safety standards of vehicles.

(viii) 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 stretches of National Highways under its Operation & Maintenance contracts.

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

(d) to (f) A Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri S. Sundar, former Secretary of Surface Transport, recommended creation of a National Road Safety and Traffic Management Board through an Act of Parliament. As recommended by the Committee, the Board would have powers to set standards for the design, construction and maintenance of National Highways, safety standards for Motor Vehicles besides having powers to issue guidelines on number of issues concerning road safety. The recommendations of the committee were examined by the Ministry in consultation with State Governments and other concerned Ministries/Departments including Ministry of Law and Justice. A Bill for creation of National Road Safety and Traffic Management Board was introduced in Lok Sabha on 4.5.2010 , which was later referred to Parliamentary Standing Committee for examination. The Committee submitted its recommendations on 21.7.2010. The Government has examined the recommendations of the Committee and initiated necessary process to incorporate certain amendments in the Bill in line with the recommendations of the Committee for consideration of the Parliament.