

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3309

ANSWERED ON:30.11.2010

ROAD SAFETY

Abdulrahman Shri ;Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram;Hussain Shri Syed Shahnawaz;Jena Shri Mohan;Mishra Shri Mahabal ;Pandey Shri Ravindra Kumar;Shukla Shri Balkrishna Khanderao Balu Shukla

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

- (a) whether an International seminar on road accidents and safety was held recently in Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details and decision taken thereon;
- (c) whether the Supreme Court has urged the Government to take steps for reduction in number of road accidents and provide compensation to the victims immediately;
- (d) if so, whether the Government proposes to amend the Road Regulation Laws pursuant to the directions and suggestions of the Supreme Court; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken so far in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH)

(a) and (b) Yes sir. An International seminar on road accidents and safety was held by International Road Federation (IRF) –India Chapter in New Delhi during 25th -26th November 2010. Important decisions taken in the said seminar are as follows:-

- i. To earmark a non-lapsable grant of Rs. 5,000 crores every year as Road Safety Fund, which shall be administered by Road Safety Board.
- ii. To establish Autonomous Road Safety Board at the Centre and similar Boards at state level in the next one year. Funding of these Boards could be provided from Central Road Fund and from the Plan Funds
- iii. To earmark 10% of the project cost for road safety features.
- iv. To issue circulars to all the automobile manufactures to provide all modern in-vehicle safety devices.
- v. To establish Fast Track Courts, using the services of retired Judges, to deal with insurance claims of the road accident victims and traffic violation cases.
- vi. All hospitals to provide immediate medical care to accident victims.
- vii. A robust accident data recording and management system be developed
- viii. Road Safety Audit Report and its compliance, in respect of project design, be made mandatory for according administrative approval of estimates.
- ix. To develop Road Safety curriculum in the school syllabus

(c) Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its judgment dated 17-12-09 given in an SLP (Civil) No. 11801-11804 of 2005 in the matter of Jai Prakash Vs. National Insurance Co. Ltd. & others has inter-alia suggested:-

- (i) to formulate a more comprehensive scheme for payment of compensation to victims of road accidents.
- (ii) to collect one time (life time) third party insurance premium by a Central Insurance Agency in respect of every vehicle sold and supplement / augment it by an appropriate road accident cess / surcharge on the price of petrol / diesel.
- (iii) to define 'third party' and to increase the quantum of compensation in case of hit and run motor accidents.
- (iv) to establish a Road Safety Bureau to lay down Road Safety Standards and norms, enforce road safety measures, carry out research / data collection for accident prevention, etc.

(v) to rationalize the second schedule of MV Act, 1988.

(vi) to ensure compensation to the victims of accidents involving uninsured vehicles.

(d) & (e) An Expert Committee has been constituted by the Government under the Chairmanship of Shri S. Sundar, Former Secretary, erstwhile Ministry of Surface Transport and distinguished Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute, to review the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 in a comprehensive manner and to make appropriate recommendations for amendments in the Act. The Committee is already seized of the issue.