

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1703

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2011

INCREASE IN ROAD ACCIDENTS

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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/Express Highways in the country;
- (b) if so, the number of total accidents reported alongwith the number of persons killed in road accidents during each of the last three years, State-wise/Union territory 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 most of the victims of road accidents die due to poor condition of roads and lack of timely treatment/medical help; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS (DR. TUSHAR A. CHAUDHARY)

(a) & (b) Yes Madam. State /Union Territory wise break-up of number of road accidents and number of persons killed for each of the year 2006 to 2008 (the latest available data) is given in Annexure I.

(c) The Government has already initiated action for the passage of Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill 2007 by the Parliament which, inter alia, includes the proposal for enhanced compensation, both in hit and run cases as well as those cases in which the vehicle causing accident has been identified. Besides reducing the accident on road, this Ministry has taken several steps to improve road safety for the 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) & (e) 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). Road accidents and persons killed due to various causes as per the 19-item format, which includes accidents due to defect in road condition for the last three years are enclosed at Annexure II. In this format, information of deaths due to lack of timely treatment/medical help is not compiled.

However, it is an accepted strategy of trauma care that if basic life support, first aid and replacement of fluids leading to initial stabilization can be arranged within first hour of the injury called "Golden Hour", lives of many accident victims can be saved. Recognizing the vital importance of quick medical assistance and evacuation of road accident victims' in reducing the trauma and probability of death and disability associated with road accidents, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been implementing a Scheme 'establishment of an integrated network of Trauma Centers' along the Golden Quadrilateral, North-South and East-West Corridors of the National Highways by upgrading the trauma care facilities in 140 identified State Government hospitals, at a total outlay of Rs. 732.75 crore during the 11th five year plan. Setting up of the integrated network of Trauma Centres along the Golden

Quadrilateral, North-South and East West Corridors will ensure that each accident victim on these corridors is able to get competent medical assistance within the shortest possible time thereby saving precious lives. The trauma care network provides three categories of trauma care centres, i.e., Level-I, Level-II and Level-III. Level-I trauma centre in the states would provide the highest level of definitive and comprehensive care of patients with complex injuries. The level-II trauma centre would be available at every 300 km. The Level-III trauma centre would be available every 100-150 km. The present Scheme covers entire Golden Quadrilateral, North-South and East-West corridors. Subsequently, after evaluation of this project, other National Highways with substantial traffic density would be taken up

The Network has been so designed that no trauma victim has to be transported for more than 50 kilometer. It will bring down the morbidity and mortality on the road by observing the golden hour concept. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) would deploy basic life support ambulances with trained and specialized manpower at every 50 Km. on the completed stretches of Highway being built and operated by them. Ministry of Road Transport & Highways would provide 140 advanced life support ambulances to 140 identified hospitals to be upgraded under this Scheme.

In addition, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, under the scheme "National Highways Accident Relief Service Scheme (NHARSS)" has been providing cranes and ambulances to States/ UTs/NGOs for relief and rescue measures in the aftermath of accidents by way of evacuating road accident victim to nearest medical aid centre and for clearing the accident site.