

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:20

ANSWERED ON:01.08.2011

ROAD ACCIDENTS

Rane Dr. Nilesh Narayan; Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the large number of accidents at various National Highways (NH)/Express Highways in the country particularly in rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of total accidents reported alongwith the number of persons killed in road accidents during each of the last three years, State/Union Territory/NH-wise including NH-17;
- (c) the reasons behind such a large number of road accidents and the corrective action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (d) the details of programmes/new measures, if any, taken by the Government to prevent road accidents on the NHs in the interior region of the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (DR C.P. JOSHI)

(a) to (d) A statement containing the detailed point-wise reply is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 20 FOR ANSWER ON 01.08.2011 ASKED BY SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA and DR. NILESH N. RANE REGARDING ROAD ACCIDENTS

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. Details of State-wise/Union Territory wise number of total road accidents reported and number of persons killed in road accidents on National Highways (including Expressway) during each of the years 2007 to 2009 (the latest available data) is at Annexure I. State-wise/Union Territory wise details of number of total road accidents reported and number of persons killed in road accidents on all roads during each of the years 2007 to 2009 (the latest available data) is at Annexure II.

(c) Road accidents are mainly caused due to a number of factors such as driver's fault, mechanical defects in the vehicles, fault of pedestrians, bad road, bad weather, cattle, increase in population, vehicular population, heterogeneous traffic, fallen trees etc. This Ministry has, been taking the following steps to prevent road accidents:

- i. It is ensured that road safety is the integral part of road design at planning stage.
- 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, 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 School in the States by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
- v. Publicity campaign on road safety awareness both through the audio-visual and print media by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
- vi. Tightening of safety standards of vehicles like Seat Belts, Power-steering, rear view Mirror etc.
- vii. 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.
- viii. Widening and improvements of National Highways from 2 lanes to 4 lanes and 4 lanes to 6 lanes etc.

(d) The Ministry has requested all States/UTs on 18.02.2010 for setting up of State Road Safety Council and District Road Safety Committees, if already not done and to hold their meetings regularly so that the right message to curb the menace of Road Accidents

reaches to all concerned and due priority is given to road safety.

As per the deliberations in the last meeting of the National Road Safety Council, held on 25th March 2011 the Ministry has formed five separate working groups on four E's of Road Safety viz. (i) Education (ii) Enforcement (iii) Engineering (roads as well as vehicles) and (iv) emergency care to lay out the macro and micro dimensions with potential solutions to road safety and to suggest short term and long terms measures to curb road accidents in the country. All these working groups have already started working on their respective subjects.

In addition to above, the Ministry carries out Road safety awareness campaign through Print and Electronic Media particularly giving emphasis on Doordarshan Network including its regional channels and All India Radio which caters to large number of people living in the interiors of the country.