

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:984

ANSWERED ON:28.11.2011

ROAD ACCIDENTS

Abdulrahman Shri ;Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash;Baitha Shri Kameshwar ;Dhurve Jyoti;Gandhi Shri Dilip Kumar Mansukhlal;Jeyadural Shri S. R.;Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram ;Mithlesh Shri ;Naranbhai Shri Kachhadia;Patil Shri A.T. Nana;Ram Shri Purnmasi;Rane Dr. Nilesh Narayan;Reddy Shri Modugula Venugopala ;Sampath Shri Anirudhan;Shantha J.;Sidhu Shri Navjot Singh;Singh Alias Pappu Singh Shri Uday;Singh Shri Sushil Kumar;Sugumar Shri K. ;Virendra Kumar Shri

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the increasing number of accidents on various National Highways/ Expressways in the country particularly in rural areas;
- (b) if so, the number of total accidents reported alongwith the number of persons killed in road accidents NH-wise as well as economic losses caused thereby across the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise particularly in Maharashtra and Bihar;
- (c) whether the Government has made any study to identify accident prone stretches on the National Highways/Expressways;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government to check accidents on such stretches;
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to impose a complete ban on liquor vends/shops situated on the Highways so as to reduce accidents caused due to drunken driving; and
- (f) the steps being taken to provide better medical aids on National Highways/ Expressways to handle the accidents?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) State-wise break-up of road accidents on National Highways (NHs) and of the number of persons killed in road accidents on NHs during 2007-2009 (the latest available data) is in Annexure-1 and Annexure-II, respectively.

The Working Group on Road Accidents, Injury Prevention and Control, set up by the Planning Commission, estimated the social cost of road accidents in India in 1999-2000 about 3 per cent of GDP. The economic cost of road accidents was estimated at Rs. 55,000 crore in 1999-2000 in the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07) document.

(c) & (d) A research project (R-64) titled 'Establishment of System for Identification and Rectification of Accident Black Spots' was undertaken by this Ministry in the year 1995. The findings were:-

- i) Maximum number of accidents, especially fatal accidents, occur on straight stretches due to high speed.
- ii) Four arm junctions are the most vulnerable mainly due to insufficient site distance, lack of traffic guidance, absence of road markings and poor road geometrics.
- iii) Head on collisions generally occur due to high speed and bad overtaking practice.
- iv) Pedestrians are most vulnerable victims. Pedestrians are ranked second in making errors and one of the main causes of accidents.
- v) Driver error is found to be main cause of many accidents.
- vi) During night time, trucks are involved in maximum number of accidents.
- viii) The share of negligence and over –speeding in accidents is found to be 90%.

NHA has started undertaking Road Safety Audit in selected stretches of NHs and taking necessary corrective measures e.g segregation of local and through traffic by constructing flyovers, underpasses, bypasses, service roads etc. and providing Safety features like road markings, signages, crash barriers, raised pavement markers and pedestrian facilities like zebra crossing, pedestrian underpass, foot over bridges, pedestrian guardrails etc.

(e) Licensing of liquor shops is covered under Excise Policy of the States. In the 7th meeting of the National Road Safety Council (NRSC) held on 15.1.2004 in New Delhi, it was unanimously agreed that licenses for liquor vends should not be given along National Highways. Action is to be taken by the concerned State Governments in this regard.

(f) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, under the scheme "National Highways Accident Relief Service Scheme" (NHARSS), has been providing ambulances to States/ UTs/NGOs for relief and rescue measures in the aftermath of road accidents by way of evacuating victims to the nearest medical aid centre. Ambulances are also provided by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) at an average stretch of 50 km on National Highways through the private concessionaires of BOT (Toll) projects. In addition, 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 to provide medical assistance to accident victims.