

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:871

ANSWERED ON:19.03.2012

ROAD ACCIDENTS

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the increasing number of accidents on various National Highways/ Expressways in the country particularly in rural areas;
- (b) if so, the number of accidents reported/persons killed in road accidents during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has made any study to ascertain the reasons behind these accidents;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government to curb accidents alongwith the details of the programmes /new measures taken in the matter; and
- (e) the other steps being taken to provide better medical aids on NHs/Expressways to handle the accidents?

Answer

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

(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 2008 to 2010 (the latest available data) are placed 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 2008 to 2010 (the latest available data) is at Annexure II.

(c) & (d) Ministry of Road Transport & Highways collects data on road accidents from all States/UTs 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). These data are analyzed and an annual publication titled "Road Accidents in India" is released every year by the Transport Research Wing of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. The latest issue of the publication for the year 2010 was released in December 2011. The report contains data on road accidents and related parameters, including factors causing road accidents, for all States/UTs.

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.

Some of the additional measures taken by the Government to contain the number of road accidents are as under:

(i) The Government has already approved a National Road Safety Policy. This Policy outlines various policy measures such as promoting awareness, establishing road safety information data base, encouraging safer road infrastructure including application of intelligent transport, enforcement of safety laws etc.

(ii) The Ministry has requested all States/UTs for setting up of State Road Safety Council and District Road Safety Committees, if not already done, and to hold their meetings regularly so that the right message to curb the menace of Road Accidents reaches all concerned and due priority is given to road safety.

(iii) As per the deliberations in the 12th meeting of the National Road Safety Council (NRSC), held on 25th March, 2011, the Ministry had 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 term measures to curb road accidents in the country. NRSC in its 13th meeting held on 29th February 2012, deliberated on the recommendations of all the five working groups. A synthesis report containing all the major recommendation of five Working Groups is now available on the Ministry's website.

(iv) The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has asked all State Govts/UTs to provide information about top 25 black spots/ Accidents prone stretches for their treatment on priority basis.

(e) 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 during the 11th five year plan to provide medical assistance to accident victims.