

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:57

ANSWERED ON:09.12.2013

ROAD ACCIDENTS

Singh Shri Ravneet;Vijayan Shri A.K.S.

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

- (a) whether the number of road accidents in the country has increased over the years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the factors responsible for increase in the number of road accidents in the country;
- (c) the total number of road accidents occurred in the country including those on National Highways during the last three years and the current year along with the number of persons killed therein, State/UT-wise particularly in Punjab;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to provide free/cashless treatment to the victims of road accidents and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to prevent road accidents?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 57 ANSWERED ON 09.12.2013 ASKED BY SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN AND SHRI RAVNEET SINGH REGARDING ROAD ACCIDENTS

(a) Yes, Sir. The number of accidents has increased over the years till 2010. However, as per the latest issue of " Road Accidents in India 2012" published by Transport Research Wing of this Ministry, the number of road accidents in the country has decreased consecutively during the years 2011 and 2012. The number of road accidents has decreased from 4,99,628 in 2010 to 4,97,686 in 2011 and to 4,90,383 in 2012.

(b) The details of accidents during the year 2002 to 2012 is placed at Annexure – I. Road accidents occur due to the complex interaction of a number of factors and it may not be possible to indicate the one specific factor for increase in the accidents. However, increase of motorization, the amount of travel undertaken, the distance travelled and time spend on the roads, etc. have contributed to the increase of road accidents.

(c) Details of State-wise/Union Territory wise number of total road accidents reported and number of persons killed in road accidents in the States/ UTs and on National Highways during each of the years 2009 to 2012 (the latest available data) are placed at Annexure II to V. The details of the total number of road accidents and persons killed in Punjab are given in Annexure VI.

(d) The Government is implementing a pilot project for cashless treatment of road accident victims on the Gurgaon-Jaipur Stretch of National Highway-8. The project envisages deployment of Ambulances for transportation of road accident victims on the identified stretch of NH-8 to a Government hospital or an empanelled hospital. Cashless treatment for the first 48 hours or up to Rs. 30,000/- whichever is reached earlier, at CGHS rates/AIIMS rates will be provided in case of treatment at an empanelled Hospital.

(e) This Ministry has taken a number of measures to prevent road accidents and the details 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. It is ensured that road safety is the integral part of road design at planning stage.

- iv. 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.
- v. Refresher training to Heavy Motor Vehicle drivers in the unorganized sector being implemented by the Ministry since 1997-98 under plan activities.
- vi. Setting up of Driving Training School in the States by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
- vii. Publicity campaign on road safety awareness both through the audio-visual and print media by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
- viii. Tightening of safety standards of vehicles like Seat Belts, Power-steering, rear view Mirror etc.
- ix. 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.
- x. Widening and improvements of National Highways from 2 lanes to 4 lanes and 4 lanes to 6 lanes etc.