GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1863 ANSWERED ON:01.12.2009 DEATH IN ROAD ACCIDENTS Baske Shri Pulin Bihar;Guddu Shri Premchandra;Jeyadural Shri S. R.;Singh Shri Pashupati Nath

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

(a) whether India records the highest number of road accidents and highest deaths in the world and whether India's accident death rate has been on the increase in comparison to other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government has received suggestions from the State Governments on commuter safety;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government thereon, State-wise;

(e) whether the Union Government has set up a Committee on Road Safety and Traffic Management;

(f) if so, the details thereof along with the salient features of the said Committee and its composition along with the activities undertaken by it; and

(g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH)

(a) & (b) India's road accident deaths were 1,14,444, which is highest, as per latest available data for the year 2007, followed by China at 81,649. However, as per World Road Statistics (WRS) 2009, brought out by the International Road Federation (IRF), Geneva, the United States of America has reported the highest number of "Injury Accidents" during 2007 at 17,48,435. The corresponding figures for India and Japan during 2007 have been reported at 4,79,216 and 8,32,454 respectively. Regarding cross-country status of road accidents it is the normalized figures which are comparable and not the absolute figures due to large differences in population etc. among the countries. Although in absolute terms, number of persons killed due to road accidents is the highest in India among the countries reporting data for the World Road Statistics, in the normalized terms (persons killed per 1,00,000 population), the Indian figure is well below many developed and developing countries. Details of injury accidents, persons killed due to road accidents & persons killed per 1,00,000 population is at Annexure I.

(c) No, Sir. There is no specific suggestion received from the State Governments on commuter safety.

(d) Does not arise in view of answer to (c) above.

(e) to (g) The Government has recently set up a Committee under the chairmanship of Secretary (RT&H) on 7th October 2009 to advise the Government on Road Safety and Traffic Management issues. The composition and terms of reference of the Committee are at Annexure II. The Committee has already met once and members have been entrusted tasks to prioritize certain key areas requiring urgent attention of the Government.