

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3049

ANSWERED ON:08.12.2009

ACCIDENTS ON NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

Baske Shri Pulin Bihar;Pratap Narayanrao Shri Sonawane;Satpathy Shri Tathagata;Shekhar Shri Neeraj

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

- (a) whether the Union Government/National Highways Authority of India (NHA) are unable to place safety measures which has resulted in alarming number of accidents on the National Highways/Expressways;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of accidents including the accidents due to road caving in on various NHs/ Expressways during each of the last three years and the current year, NH-wise and Stretch-wise;
- (d) the corrective action taken in the matter;
- (e) whether any provisions exists to provide free medical cover for the first 48 hours of hospitalization of victims of road accidents; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS (SHRI MAHADEV SINGH KHANDELA)

(a) & (b) No Sir. Road safety is an integral part of road design at the planning stage for National Highways/Expressways. Various engineering measures have been taken to reduce accidents including widening of National Highways (NH) roads with provision of divider/median, provision of caution boards, signages, delineators, road markings, crash barriers, lighting in urban areas/bridges, flyovers, speed retarders on cross roads etc.

(c) & (d) State-wise break-up of number of road accidents on National Highways (including Expressways) for each of the years 2004 to 2007 (the latest available data) is at Annexure . Road accident data is compiled in the Ministry 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). In this format, data of road accidents due to roads cavings, NH-wise and Stretch- wise is not collected and compiled. 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.

The safety of road users is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, this Ministry has taken several steps to improve road safety for road users which are as under:

- (i) Road safety is an integral part of road design at the planning stage for National Highways/Expressways.
- (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) Involvement of NGOs for road safety activities by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and National Highways Authority of India.
- (v) Setting up of Driving Training Schools in the country.
- (vi) Publicity campaign on road safety awareness both through the audio-visual and print media.
- (vii) Institution of National Award for voluntary organizations/individual for outstanding work in the field of road safety.
- (viii) Tightening of safety standards of vehicles.
- (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.

(e) to (f) There is no provision in the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 to provide free medical cover for the first 48 hours of hospitalisation of victims of road accidents.