

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1404
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2009
ROAD ACCIDENTS
Panda Shri Baijayant

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

- (a) whether there is a steep rise in road accidents in the country as per a report of the Planning Commission;
- (b) if so, whether as per the report 70% people who die on roads are two wheeler riders, cyclists and pedestrians;
- (c) whether lack of enforcement against high speed and drunk driving are the causes behind the spurt in accidents; and
- (d) if so, the action taken by the Government to address the issues on priority basis?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MAHADEO SINGH KHANDELA)

a) & (b) A Working Group on Road Accidents, Injury Prevention and Control was set up by the Planning Commission in 2000 to go into all aspects relating to accidents, injury prevention and control. The Working Group, inter-alia, made the following observations:

i) 76,732 persons were killed and 3,24,377 injured in road traffic crashes in India in 1998.

ii) The non-motorised transport road users consisting of pedestrians, cyclists and other slow moving vehicles are the most vulnerable group and account for 60-80% of fatalities.

Planning Commission has not brought out any report on road accidents since 2000. The issue of road safety was, however, dealt by the Sub-group on Road Safety constituted by the Planning Commission for 11th Five Year Plan and accordingly a mention with regard to number of accidents was made in para 9.3.81 of chapter on Roads in the 11th Five Year Plan Document, which is reproduced below :

" The number of accidents has quadrupled from 1.1 lakh in 1970 to 4.3 lakh in 2004, with 92,618 persons killed in accidents (one fatality per 4.6 accidents) and 4,64,521 persons injured in 2004. The social cost impact of road accidents is 3% of the GDP."

Details of road accidents in the country for the calendar years 2004 to 2007 (the latest available data) are at Annexure.

(c) &(d) The enforcement against high speed and drunk driving and 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 School 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.