

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1405
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2009
ROAD SAFETY MANAGEMENT
Ramasubbu Shri S.

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

- (a) whether the number of road accidents in the country are increasing over the years;
- (b) if so, the details during each of the last three years and the current year alongwith social loss to the exchequer, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes new measures including training programme for road safety management, fixing minimum qualifications for drivers and conductors of public transports and introduce new regulations for licence procedures;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent the increasing number of road accidents in the country?

Answer

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

a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The State-wise number of road accidents in the country for the calendar years 2005 to 2007 (the latest available data) are at Annexure. As per the Tenth Five Year Plan (Volume-II) of the Planning Commission, the economic cost of road traffic accidents in India is estimated to be Rs. 55,000 crore in 1999-2000. The Working Group on Road Accidents, Injury Prevention and Control set up by the Planning Commission has estimated the Social cost of road accidents in India in 1999-2000 at about 3% of GDP.

(c) & (d) This Ministry has organized Workshop-cum-Training Programmes on Road Safety Management at Central Institute of Road Transport, Pune and Engineering Staff College of India, Hyderabad for the State Transport Department personnel. The minimum qualification of pass in 8th standard for obtaining a license to drive transport vehicles has already been prescribed in Rule 8 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. Procedure to obtain driving license has already been laid down in detail under Chapter II of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Chapter II of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989

(e) 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.