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Title : Increase in number of road accidents in the country.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Madam, I would like to draw the attention of this House that road fatalities in our country have been increasing by leaps and bounds. If I got recourse to a news item, then it will be found that everyhour due to road fatalities, 13 people have been fallen to prey to. Madam, we are pumping huge investment; we are pouring massive fund in the development of our infrastructure including roads. But it is assessed that in commensurate with the increase of the speed of a vehicle in our road, the road fatalities are also increasing. Ten per cent of increase in speed of vehicles in our road has been taking toll of 30 more lives.

Madam, India has been ranked first in the world in terms of road fatalities. Everyhour, 13 innocent people are dying due to road accidents. If we do a little endeavour for an arithmetic exercise, then we will find that everyday road fatalities are taking toll of 250 persons in our country, and for a year it is going at stratospheric level to 1,14,590 people.

Madam, it is a matter of great concern because we are already facing cyclone, tsunami, other environmental disasters, insurgency, terrorism, etc.

But no other single event has been taking so much tolls similar to road fatalities. Therefore, in this regard, we need to have a comprehensive road safety management because when the number of vehicles in our country has been increasing, we should put in place the other mechanisms to prevent road fatalities

Management of roads is very poor. We do not have any breath tasting facilities. Drunken drivers are going to kill the people rampantly in a violent way. Therefore, I think, a severe and stringent penalty mechanism, a stringent punishment could act as a deterrent. I would urge upon the Government to frame a stringent road safety mechanism so as to stop road fatalities that have been growing in our country in an alarming way.