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Title: Regarding safety of children on roads.

SHRIMATI KIRRON KHER (CHANDIGARH): Madam Speaker, I rise to speak about a grave concern for the nation about the lack of safety of children on roads.

Children are the future of the country. It is extremely disturbing that we as a nation have failed to protect our children from being killed in road accidents, which are entirely preventable. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, 20 children are killed every day due to road crashes in the country.

In the year 2013, more than 7300 innocent children under the age of 14 years have lost their lives in road accidents on the killer roads of India. This is nearly 300 per cent more than the reported deaths of children resulting from all crimes against them put together. I am not trying to undermine crimes against children in any way. I just want to draw attention to the enormity of road accidents, which have emerged as silent killers. It is disheartening to note that road accidents have failed to receive the amount of attention that they deserve from policy makers.

Madam, in the last one year, the NDA Government has proactively addressed important social concerns. I firmly believe that with a strong political will, all of us can work together towards ensuring safer roads for our children. I appeal to this house to urgently take legislative and policy measures, in order to curb this disturbing trend and protect the future of our country. It is important to make institutions such as schools and adults accountable for ensuring safety of children on road, including safe commute to school. Therefore, I request the government to set minimum safety standards for children, such as use of child helmets and child seat belts, and ensure their strict compliance. There should be stricter penalties for dereliction of traffic norms with children on-board and for negligent driving that causes a death of child.

I also urge the Government to reclaim neighbourhood streets for children and prevent the tragic incidents of them being mowed down by rash traffic through segregation of child zones.

Madam Speaker, I feel that, as legislators, we must prioritize safety of children on roads by enacting a law that addresses these issues in a comprehensive manner.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Nishikant Dubey, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Shri P.P. Chaudhary are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati Kirron Kher.