

**Representation on SC/ST Among Diplomats**

\*553. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Consulate Generals and other diplomats in position as on date;

(b) the number of Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Consulate Generals and other diplomats that belong to SC/ST category; and

(c) What action Government are taking to increase representation of SCs/ STs in respect of posting of diplomats in various countries ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The number of Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Consulate Generals and other diplomats from the Ministry of External Affairs as on date is 476.

(b) The number belonging to SCs/STs is 115.

(c) Efforts are made towards the appointment of officers belonging to the SC/ST category as Ambassadors/High Commissioners/Consulate Generals on the basis of a number of criteria which include, inter alia, their, seniority, relevant experience, career, background and an overall suitability to the tasks and the post.

**Accidents of National Highways in Tamil Nadu**

\*554. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents on the National Highways in Tamil Nadu during the last three years;

(b) The number of persons killed/injured in such accidents in the State during that period; and

(c) The steps taken to check road accidents on National Highways ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Total number of road accidents, persons killed and persons injured on National Highways in Tamil Nadu for last three years from 1998 to 2000 are as under:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Accidents</u>	<u>Persons Killed</u>	<u>Persons Injured</u>
1998	13731	3106	9822
1999	16329	3639	14706
2000	18615	4362	20146

(c) Steps being taken are :

- (i) Widening of single lane to 2-lanes
- (ii) Widening of selected 2-lane sections to 4/6- lane
- (iii) Improvement of road geometries
- (iv) Construction of by-passes
- (v) Reconstruction of weak and narrow bridges and culverts
- (vi) Providing paved shoulders
- (vii) Strengthening weak pavements
- (viii) junction improvements
- (ix) Replacement of level crossing by road over-bridges
- (x) Retro-reflective road signs
- (xi) Thermoplastic road markings
- (xii) Provision of parking lay byes
- (xiii) Provision of Service Roads
- (xiv) Wayside amenities on high traffic density corridors, and
- (xv) Creation of awareness amongst various categories of Road Users,
- (xvi) Training of drivers, etc.

**Inadequate Space for Strong Inventories in Ordnance Depots**

\*555. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that space available for storing inventories is inadequate in most of the ordnance depots, thus exposing stores to vagaries of weather;

(b) if so, the depot-wide details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by Government for optimum utilisation of space and creation of additional space ?