

taken up under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-III, except the section of NH-8 (Beawar-Udaipur road). NHDP Phase-III is scheduled for completion by December, 2013.

(c) and (d) The four-laning of NH-79 from Chittourgadh to Neemach section is not included under NHDP. Four-laning of various road stretches is taken up keeping in view availability of funds and *inter-se* priority.

Fatal accidents due to traffic violation on NHs

1201. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the drivers do not follow traffic rules on the National Highways and Expressways resulting into fatal accidents; and

(b) if so, the number of accidents that have taken place on National Highways and Expressways during the last three years and the number of casualties therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Road accidents and fatalities occurring on National Highways and Expressways are mainly caused due to a number of factors such as driver's fault, mechanical defects in the vehicles, fault of pedestrians, bad road, bad weather, cattle, fallen trees etc. Other factors that contribute to road accidents are increase in vehicular population, increase in population, heterogeneous traffic, modern high speed vehicles, increase in road space, etc. It is not possible to say that the accidents are caused only by the drivers not following the traffic rules. Data on road accidents due to 'drivers not following traffic rules' cannot be segregated. However, the total number of road accidents that occurred on the National Highways and Expressways in the country and the number of persons killed in these road accidents during the calendar years 2004, 2005 and 2006 are given below:-

Year	Number of road accidents that occurred on the National Highways	Number of road accidents that occurred on the Expressways	Number of persons killed in road accidents that occurred on the National Highways	Number of persons killed in road accidents that occurred on the Expressways
2004	126396	3869	29439	5284
2005	123758	6236	26685	8754
2006	97429	4778	31717	6343

Brahmaputra waterways project

1202. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 308 given in the Rajya Sabha on 20th March, 2008 and state: