

- (ii) **Refresher training for heavy vehicle drivers:** The Department of Road Transport and Highways has launched "Two days refresher training for heavy motor vehicle drivers in unorganized sector" to inculcate safe driving habits, to acquaint drivers with road safety regulation and upkeep of vehicles in road worthy condition. During the Ninth Plan (1997-2002) and the Tenth Plan (2002-03 to 2006-07) 15740 and 192218 drivers have been trained respectively. During the year 2007-08, sanction to impart training to 59850 drivers was issued. The target for the current financial year *i.e.*, 2008-09 is fixed at 75000.
- (iii) **National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme:** The scheme provides for supply of cranes and ambulances to States/UTs/NGOs for relief, rescue and evacuation of accident victims to nearest medical aid centre and for clearing the accident site. Besides NHAI also provides ambulances at a distance of 50 Km on each of its completed stretches of National Highway under its operation and maintenance. So far 437 ambulances and 252 cranes have been deployed on completed stretches of National Highways.
- (iv) **Road Safety Programme through NGOs:** Through this Scheme, the road users are made aware of the road safety rules, signages and safe usage of both vehicle and the road through NGOs. 125 NGOs were sanctioned grant in 2006-07 involving an amount of Rs. 1.49 crores whereas 121 NGOs were sanctioned grant in 2007-08 involving an amount of Rs. 1.73 crores. Applications of NGOs are scrutinized and selected by a Screening Committee of the recommendations of the State Governments.
- (v) Publicity as well as Awareness campaigns on road safety have been conducted through audio-visual-print media by the Department of Road Transport and Highways.
- (d) The activities at (c) (i)-(v) above are undertaken in close coordination with/on recommendations of the State Governments and UTs.

Economic implications of road accidents

1216. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that as per the World Bank estimates every year road accidents cost India about 3 per cent of its Gross Domestic Product which was more than \$1 trillion in 2007;
- (b) if so, whether Government has calculated economic implications of road accidents amounting to approximately one lakh a year;
- (c) whether Government is also aware that potholed roads, inadequate safety regulations, a scrappy licence system and a lax attitude towards drunken and underage driving are all blamed for accidents that kill an estimated 275 people every day; and

(d) if so, the details of measures taken thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) In economic terms, the cost of road crash injuries is estimated at roughly 1 percent of gross national product (GNP) in low-income countries, 1.5 percent in the middle-income countries and 2 percent in high-income countries. The direct economic costs of global road crashes have been estimated at US \$ 518 Billion, with the costs in low income countries estimated at US \$65 Billion (World Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention, page 5 WHO, 2004). These estimates take into account only the direct economic costs-mainly productivity loss rather than the full social costs often recognized by industrialized countries. A study by the Planning Commission in 2002 had estimated the social cost of road accidents in India at Rs. 55,000 crore annually (2000 prices), which constitutes 3% of the GDP.

(c) and (d) During the year ending 31/12/2006 total number of persons killed in road accidents was 105749 translating into 290 accident, deaths per day. During the year 2006 the provisional number of persons killed due to intake of alcohol/drug by the Drivers was at 8313 and those killed due to defects in road condition was 2024.

The safety of road users is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State government. However, this department 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 Department since 1997-98 under plan activities.
- (iv) Involvement of NGOs for road safety activities by Department of Road Transport and Highways and National Highways Authority of India.
- (v) Setting up of Driving Training School 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 Government/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 and maintenance contracts.
- (x) Widening and improvements of National Highways from 2 lanes to 4 lanes and 4 lanes to 6 lanes etc.

Four-laning of NHS in Kerala

1217. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total length of National Highways in Kerala and the portion which is four-laned;
- (b) the steps taken by Government to convert the entire National Highway in Kerala upto four-lane;
- (c) the details thereof; and
- (d) the time by when it would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) Total length of National Highways passing through the State of Kerala is 1526 Km. A total length of 883 km is planned to be four laned, of which 77km is already four laned. This will cover entire length of NH-47 and MH-17 in Kerala. The planned length for four laning is expected to be completed by December, 2013.

Remote sensing data policy

†1218. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received any complaint/information till now about the violation of Remote Sensing Data Policy ISRO:EOS:POLICY 01: 2001 of Indian Space Research Organisation;
- (b) if so, the names of companies or individuals against whom complaints have been received and the complaints which are of serious nature for the national security;
- (c) the action taken against alleged companies or individuals; and
- (d) the names of companies/individuals who have got themselves registered under the above mentioned policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.