

(c) if so, which are the recommendations accepted and which recommendations have not been accepted so far and why; and

(d) what is the status of implementation of the Committee's recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA) : (a) to (c) The one-man committee headed by Shri P.P. Prabhu that was set up to look into the performance of Commodity Boards made 199 recommendations which broadly cover rationalization and reformulation of existing schemes, promotion of interest of the small growers, reduction in membership and manpower of the Boards, enhancing of financial powers, strengthening of research activities with periodical evaluation, privatization of domestic sales outlets, withdrawing from the control activities, etc. The Government after examination accepted 128 recommendations. 36 recommendations were not accepted, as they were not found to be feasible and practicable. No action was required in respect of 8 recommendations, which were of advisory nature. Final view on 27 recommendations was not taken pending further examination.

(d) Directions have been issued by the Government to the respective Commodity Boards to implement the accepted recommendations.

Increasing road accidents in the country

†*175. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:

SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that road accidents are increasing day by day in country which has led the country to top the list of road accident deaths in the world;

(b) if so, whether Government is working on any effective plan to protect lacs of people from such untimely deaths every year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) It is true that road accidents are increasing in the country. However, in terms of road accident deaths per one lakh population, India (10.1) is better than many of the developed and developing countries like USA (14.66), Russian Federation (22.95) and South Africa (32.53). The Government has taken several actions to improve the road safety, the details of which are given in the Statement.

Statement

Increasing road accidents in the country

(a) The number of road accidents, fatal road accidents and the number of persons killed in India during the years 2003-2007 (the latest available data) is as under:

Year	Number of Accidents		Number of Persons
	Total	Fatal	Killed
1	2	3	4
2003	406726	73589	85998
2004	429910	79357	92618

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3	4
2005	4339255	83491	94968
2006	460920	93917	105749
2007 (P)	479216	101161	114444

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Regarding cross-country status of road accidents and number of persons killed due to such accidents it is the normalized figures which are comparable and not the absolute figures due to large differences in population etc. among the countries. Although in absolute terms, number of persons killed due to road accidents is one of the highest in India among the countries reporting data for the World Road Statistics, the normalized terms (persons killed per 1,00,000 population), the Indian figure is well below many developed and developing countries.

(b) and (c) The safety of road users is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. This Ministry, however, has taken several actions to improve road safety, which are given below:

- (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 Ministry since 1997-98 under plan activities.
- (iv) Involvement of NGOs for road safety activities by Ministry 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 Governments/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 & Maintenance contracts.
- (x) Widening and improvements of National Highways from 2 lanes to 4 lanes and 4 lanes to 6 lanes etc.