

(a) whether the Pench Tiger Reserve, one of the four most viable tiger habitats in the country is facing problem as the National Highways Authority of India proposes to slice the reserve in two by building four lane highway (NH-7) through it;

(b) whether it is a fact Pench Tiger Reserve is a small habitat with 411 sq. Kms. in area and the division to slice the reserve into two could well mean the death knell for the 30 tigers living in the reserve; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

High-Accident prone areas in A.P.

4446. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the "High-Accident Prone" areas identified and monitored by the Road Safety Forum of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the reaction of Government to "High-Accident Prone" areas in the NHAI roads like NH-5 in West and East Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether Government is ready to take a positive approach to reduce road accidents;

(d) whether it is a fact that Government has a lethargic approach to road accident; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to change the mind set?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MAHADEV S. KHANDELA): (a) and (b) The Ministry is not aware of any 'High-Accident Prone' areas identified and monitored by Road Safety Forum of Andhra Pradesh. However, some stretches of Vijayawada-Gundugolanu section, have been identified as 'Accident-Prone' areas in coordination with police authorities. This stretch passes through Krishna & West Godavari Districts. Traffic safety devices like road signs, cat's eyes, cash barriers, provision of route patrol, ambulance and crane etc have been provided through O&M contractor in the section. Moreover, in the upcoming 6 lanning of Vijayawada-Gundugolanu section under NHDP Phase V, junction improvement and flyovers are being proposed, wherever, required.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The safety of road users is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, this Ministry has taken several corrective actions 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) Road furniture, road markings/road signs, introduction of Highway Traffic Management System using intelligent Transport System, and 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) Setting up of Driving Training School in the country.
- (v) Publicity campaign on road safety awareness both through the audio-visual and print media.
- (vi) Institution of National Award for voluntary organizations/individual for outstanding work in the field of road safety.
- (vii) Tightening of safety standards of vehicles.
- (viii) 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.
- (ix) Widening and improvements of National Highways from 2 lanes to 4 lanes and 4 lanes to 6 lanes etc.

In addition to the above, the Government has introduced a bill in Lok Sabha on 4th May 2010 to create Road Safety and Traffic Management Board to oversee road safety activities in the country in a comprehensive manner.

Target for building 20 Kms. highway in a day

4447. SHRI P. RAJEEV: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Ministry has fixed a target for building 20 Km. highway in a day;