

The construction of these bypasses would be taken up depending upon viability of the project. It is too early to give the time frame.

1484. [This question was cancelled.]

Notification of coastal highways as NHs in Gujarat

1485. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length of Coastal Highways/Roads on the sea coast of Gujarat which has not been notified as National Highways;

(b) whether Government of India intends to notify the same and if so, by when; and

(c) whether Government is upgrading the remaining length of NHs to improve the security of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) A length of 1040.00 Km of Coastal Highways/Roads on the sea coast of Gujarat has not been declared as National Highways (NH).

(b) Declaration of any road as a National Highway depends not only on the consideration that it runs along the coast but on several other considerations including traffic needs, requirement of connectivity, *inter-se* priority, and availability of funds.

(c) Development including upgradation of National Highways is a continuous process and taken up depending upon condition of road, volume of traffic, *inter-se* priority and availability of funds.

Rise in deaths in road accidents

1486. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 315 people die every day on Indian roads which comes to 15 deaths in an hour;

(b) whether it is also a fact that road accidents in the country are rising by 8 per cent every year; and

(c) what are the reasons that not even one per cent of amount is spent on road safety in spite of spending lakhs of crores on construction of roads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MAHADEO S. KHANDELA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The details of number of persons killed every day, the number of persons killed per hour and growth rate of road accidents in India during the years 2004-2007 (the latest available data) is as under :

Year	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Killed per Day	Number of Persons Killed per hour	Number of Road Accidents	Growth Rate of road accidents (%)
2004	92618	253	11	429910	—
2005	94968	260	11	439255	2.17
2006	105749	290	12	460920	4.93
2007	114444	314	13	479216	3.97

(c) The funds allocated for various Road safety programmes are not related to the allocation of funds for construction of roads but are based on approved Schemes pertaining to Road Safety. The details of funds allocated and spent on various road safety schemes, during the last five years and the current year are as under:—

(Rs. in crore)

Year	BE/RE	Expenditure
2004-05	39.70	34.99
2005-06	43.05	29.70
2006-07	47.00	43.25
2007-08	52.00	42.87
2008-09	73.00	54.89
2009-10	79.00	08.00 (till date)

The Sundar Committee which was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri S. Sundar, former Secretary, Ministry of Surface Transport to make recommendations for setting up a separate body on "Road Safety and Traffic management" has *inter alia* recommended creation of an apex body *i.e.* National Road Safety and Traffic Management Board, creation of a dedicated road safety fund namely National Road Safety Fund by way of earmarking 1% of the total proceeds of the cess on diesel and petrol. The proposal has been referred to the Cabinet for their approval.

Projects to connect NHs to districts

†1487. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has formulated an ambitious project to connect National Highways to several districts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.