

Road safety on highways

1482. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank has raised serious concerns over road safety on highways in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MAHADEO S. KHANDELA) : (a) to (b) Yes, Sir. The World Bank has conveyed its concern over Road Safety during construction on Highways in the country particularly in the context of an accident which occurred on 11th January, 2010 at bridge construction site in the Lucknow/Faizabad Section of NH - 28 of World Bank Package-II on Lucknow-Muzaffarpur National Highway Project (Near Rauzgaon) preceded by a major bridge collapse in Kota over Chambal river. An expert Committee comprising independent experts has been constituted by the Ministry to investigate the causes of accident of Kota Bridge. The report of Expert Committee comprising independent experts from IIT - Roorkee to investigate the causes of accident at Rauzgaon has already been sent to the World Bank.

(c) National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) had constituted a Committee of three engineers/experts to investigate the accident which occurred on the Lucknow/Faizabad Section of NH - 28 of the World Bank Package - II and to give recommendations for the future. The committee's report has been received and based on their recommendations guidelines have been issued to all Project Director/Supervision Consultant and contractors to follow the safety provisions scrupulously so as to avoid occurrence of similar accidents in future. Besides NHAI has taken several important steps to improve road safety scenario are given in Statement.

Statement

Initiatives taken about road safety on highways

- (i) Safety Measures are in-built in the project during design, construction and Operation and Maintenance (O and M).
 - (a) The project designs, while meeting the safety standards, provide for various measures to enhance the road safety like segregation of local and through traffic by constructing flyovers, underpasses, bypasses, service roads, etc.; user facilities like bus/truck lay by, wayside amenities; safety features like road markings, signages, crash barriers, raised pavement markers, delineators, lighting in urban areas/bridges/ flyovers, speed retarders on cross roads at junctions, etc.; and pedestrian facilities like zebra crossings, pedestrian underpasses, foot over bridges, pedestrian guardrails, etc.

- (b) During Construction, it is prescribed in the conditions of contract/ specifications to provide in Construction Zones - signages, barricades, delineations during day and night, etc.; to take care of safety of workers like personal protection equipment (reflective jackets, helmets, gloves, gumboots, spectacles, etc.), first-aid equipment and amenities, etc.
- (c) During O and M : Tow Away Vehicles for removing the breakdown/ damaged vehicles, ambulances to provide immediate medical help during golden hour to the accident victims and route patrolling vehicles to check unauthorized activities/guide the road users. These facilities are available at every 50km of sections in operation in an average. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is implementing a comprehensive scheme for upgrading Trauma Care Centres along Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) and North South and East West Corridors.
- (ii) Wayside Amenities : 4 nos. are in operation; 6 nos. under development, 3 nos. bids under evaluation, 26 nos. bids to be re-invited due to no response in previous call and 34 sites are part of the Concessionaires/Contractors of BOT (Toll/Annuity)/Engineering Procurement Contract (EPC) Projects (Total = 73). Further, a Consultant has been engaged to identify new potential sites for development of wayside amenities along North - South and East-West Corridor.
- (iii) State-of-the-Art Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) comprising of emergency call boxes, variable messages signs, CCTVs, traffic counters cum classifiers, etc. has been provided / being provided on selected sections mostly under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) Phase V.
- (iv) Road Safety Audits in 2,825 km on the completed sections and Public Education Campaigns on Golden Quadrilateral of 5,864 km have been undertaken.
- (v) In case of Build Operate Transfer (BOT) projects provision of a Safety Expert Provision exists in the team of independent engineers to take care of the safety related matters during design and construction respectively. In new Public Private Partnership (PPP) projects to be taken on Design Build Finance Operate (DBFO) basis, the system is further strengthened through appointment of a safety consultant.
- (vi) One Safety Officer has been designated in each Regional Office of NHAI to oversee the safety measures during construction and O and M of projects reaches.

Pending proposals in Orissa for construction of by-pass on NHs

†1483. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.