

Conversion of two-lane roads into four-lane in Rajasthan

†1126. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the measures being taken by Government to check the increasing number of road accidents on National Highways;

(b) whether Government have identified regions involving maximum accidents; and

(c) the number of two-lane roads planned to be converted into four-lane roads in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Some of the important steps taken by the Government besides highway design to check the road accidents are as under:

- i) 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.
- ii) Refresher training to Heavy Motor Vehicle drivers in the unorganized sector.
- iii) Involvement of NGOs for road safety activities by Department of Road Transport and Highways and National Highways Authority of India.
- iv) Setting up of Driving Training School in the country.
- v) Publicity campaign on road safety awareness through audio-visual-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) Provision of 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 highways under its Operation and Maintenance contracts.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

ix) Widening and improvements of National Highways from 2 lanes to 4 lanes and 4 lanes to 6 lanes etc.

(b) A study was undertaken for 'Establishment of a system for identification of black spots/accident prone areas' on National Highways including on the stretches of National Highways passing through Rajasthan in the year 1996.

(c) A total length of 2214.755 KMs has been planned for conversion from 2-lane roads into 4-lane roads in Rajasthan out of which 741.755 KMs has been completed.

Upkeep of NHs in Karnataka

1127. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of National Highways currently in use;

(b) whether it is a fact that a number of Highways are in a bad shape resulting in impediments to vehicular movements;

(c) if so, the details of the action taken to repair the highways and money spent for their upkeep;

(d) whether there is a proposal to upgrade all National Highways to four lane and six lane Highways; and

(e) if so, the details thereof with special reference to Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) At present there are about 66590 Km. of National Highways in the country including 3843 Km. in the State of Karnataka. The State-wise details of National Highways are enclosed as Statement (See below). Some of the National Highway sections are affected by damages like cracking, potholes, erosion of berms, ravelling etc. due to heavy traffic, overloading, climate etc.

(c) The required repair works wherever required are taken up immediately and National Highways are kept in traffic worthy condition within the available resources. Rs. 2139.99 crore has been spent for the maintenance of the National Highways during the last three years and Rs. 814.38 crore is allocated for the current year 2006-07.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.