

Losses due to road accidents in Jharkhand

†398. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the road accidents resulting in economic and other losses in the past few years in the country particularly in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year and the steps taken to check the same;

(c) whether Government proposes to adopt new measures including conducting training programmes for managing road accidents, setting minimum educational qualification for drivers and conductors of public transport vehicles and bringing new regulations for licencing procedure; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MAHADEO S. KHANDELA): (a) During the year 2008 (the latest available data) while the total number of road accidents in India has increased marginally, the total number of road accidents in Jharkhand reported during the year 2008 has decreased as compared to those reported in the year 2007. As per the Working Group on Road Accidents, Injury Prevention and Control set up by the Planning Commission, the social cost of road accidents in India in 1999-2000 was estimated at about 3 per cent of GDP. Further, the economic cost of road traffic accidents was estimated at Rs. 55,000 crore in 1999-2000 as per the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07) document.

(b) The State-wise break-up of road accidents from 2005 to 2008 (the latest available data) is given in the Statement (*See below*). 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 in the country 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.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (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.
- (c) and (d) The Ministry is in the process of setting up of a separate body *i.e.*, Road Safety and Traffic Management Board based on the recommendations of the Sunder Committee to oversee road safety activities in the country in a comprehensive manner. For training purposes, the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has a scheme titled "Two days refresher training to heavy motor vehicle drivers in unorganized sector" to inculcate safe driving habits and to acquaint the drivers with the rules on roads. Pass in eight standard is the minimum educational qualification for driving transport vehicles in terms of Rule 8 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. This was prescribed *w.e.f.* 10.4.2007. Chapter II title "Licensing of Drivers of Motor Vehicles " of the Motor Vehicles, Act, 1988 and the Central Motor Vehicles rules, 1989 prescribe a body of rules for testing and examination of the candidates prior to grant of driving license. The licensing authorities appointed by the State Governments are empowered to conduct driving test to their satisfaction so as to ensue the only genuine persons get license to drive motor vehicle.

Statement

Total Number of Road Accidents in States/UTs in 2005 to 2008

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2005	2006	2007	2008(P)
1	2	3	4	5	6
States					
1	Andhra Pradesh	37131	43559	44325	42657
2	Arunachal Pradesh	231	250	240	280

1	2	3	4	5	6
3	Assam	4258	4694	4403	4683
4	Bihar	3768	5594	7774	8991
5	Chhattisgarh	11164	11934	12296	12945
6	Goa	3577	3707	4020	4178
7	Gujarat	30515	31547	33623	33671
8	Haryana	9298	10314	11998	11596
9	Himachal Pradesh	2797	2727	2955	2756
10	Jammu & Kashmir	5664	5593	5864	5326
11	Jharkhand	5013	4980	5285	4985
12	Karnataka	40330	43411	46363	46279
13	Kerala	42295	41728	39917	37263
14	Madhya Pradesh	35123	38041	41981	43852
15	Maharashtra	72408	75413	73661	75527
16	Manipur	600	521	538	573
17	Meghalaya	428	435	300	294
18	Mizoram	96	95	77	110
19	Nagaland	226	194	239	76
20	Orissa	7593	7729	8213	8181
21	Punjab	4599	4927	5208	5115
22	Rajasthan	23115	23348	23885	23704
23	Sikkim	189	188	150	196
24	Tamil Nadu	53866	55145	59140	60409
25	Tripura	657	793	801	767
26	Uttarakhand	1332	1461	1529	1417
27	Uttar Pradesh	18325	19489	21522	25684
28	West Bengal	12597	11324	11660	12206

1	2	3	4	5	6
UTs					
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	205	154	173	191
2	Chandigarh	530	517	534	482
3	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	127	103	116	116
4	Daman & Diu	62	57	60	50
5	Delhi	9351	9299	8620	8435
6	Lakshadweep	5	10	2	12
7	Puducherry	1780	1639	1744	1697
TOTAL :		439255	460920	479216	484704

(P): Provisional

Proposal submitted by Orissa Government for NHs

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

- (a) whether Government of Orissa has submitted any proposal to Central Government for converting the various State Highways under the State into the National Highways;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, whether Central Government is considering upon it at its end; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) to (d) The details of the proposals received are given in the Statement (*See below*). Expansion of National Highway network is a continuous process and declaration of new National Highway is taken up from time to time depending upon, requirement of connectivity, *inter-se* priority and availability of funds.

Statement

*Proposal received from Government of Orissa for declaration of
New National Highways*

1. Cuttack-Paradeep road
2. Sambalpur-Rourkella road

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.