

also been created for coordination with State Government on pre construction activities. 2 zonal offices have started functioning at Bhopal and Bangalore. Several State Governments have appointed Chief Secretaries or other Senior officers as nodal officers for NHDP projects. Projects are periodically reviewed at the field and at the Head Quarters also.

Collaboration with IRF to reduce road fatalities

3229. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to International Road Federation (IRF) a global body for promoting and advocating safe road developments, India accounts for 10 per cent of the 13 lakh road accident deaths world wide every year;

(b) if so, what initiatives Government has so far taken in collaboration with IRF to reduce rate of road fatalities in country;

(c) whether Government proposes to consider road safety measures either through any changes in the Motor Vehicles Act or through engineering measures; and

(d) the details of findings/outcome of discussion of two day global meet of 20 countries held in Delhi recently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MAHADEV S. KHANDELA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways in collaboration with International Road Federation (IRF) has already undertaken a number of measures such as:—

- (i) The State Governments have been requested to extend support to IRF in promoting road safety campaign, display of hoardings, featuring of promotional films on road safety in Cinema halls as also on television, and seeking support of the print media to carry forward the road safety campaigns.
- (ii) A circular has been issued on 27th April, 2010 to all concerned to implement the desired engineering measures both on existing roads as well as in ongoing Road projects
- (iii) The Ministry has taken up the matter with the Ministry of Human Resource Development regarding incorporation of a separate chapter on Road safety in the school curriculum and to print the road signs with their meanings in front and back inside cover of all school text book for mass awareness
- (iv) The Ministry has also taken up with the Ministry of Finance to provide tax exemption to the donors of the corporate world and philanthropist individual who extend a helping hand by incurring expenditure towards Road Safety programmes.

(c) The task of arresting road accidents involves a multi-pronged approach. The main thrust of accident prevention and control across the world has been on 4 E's, viz. (i) Education, (ii) Enforcement, (iii) Engineering and (iv) Environment and Emergency care of road accident victims. The Government of India is focusing on all these 4 approaches in its policies and programmes on road safety issues.

(d) An International seminar on road accidents and safety was held by International Road Federation (IRF) — India Chapter in New Delhi during 25th-26th November, 2010. Important decisions taken in the seminar are as follows:—

- (i) To earmark a non lapsable grant of Rs. 5,000 crore every year as Road Safety Fund, which shall be administered by Road Safety Board.
- (ii) To establish an autonomous Road Safety Board at the Centre and similar Boards at State level in the next one year. Funding of these Boards could be provided from Central Road Fund and from the Plan Funds.
- (iii) To earmark 10% of the project cost for road safety features.
- (iv) To issue circulars to all the automobile manufactures to provide all modern in-vehicle safety devices.
- (v) To establish Fast Track Courts, using the services of retired Judges, to deal with insurance claims of the road accident victims and traffic violation cases.
- (vi) All hospitals to provide immediate medical care to accident victims.
- (vii) A robust accident data recording and management system be developed.
- (viii) Road Safety Audit Report and its compliance, in respect of project design, be made mandatory for according administrative approval of estimates.
- (ix) To develop Road Safety curriculum in the school syllabus.

Trade with Canada

3230. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and Canada have a trade of \$ 4.2 billion;
- (b) whether India exports gems, stones and women items to Canada and imports mainly yellow peas and pulses;
- (c) if so, whether during the recent visit of Canadian Agriculture Minister, a discussion has been held to boost the trade with Canada; and
- (d) if so, the details of discussion held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) During 2009-10, total bilateral trade between India and Canada was USD 3220.12 Million.