

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has received no bids for 17 highway projects out of total 95 projects put up for bidding last year and failed to get any response for 13 out of 60 projects it has put up for bidding this year;

(b) whether it is a fact that the total cost of almost all the projects are up to 25 per cent less than the actual cost thus making it difficult for the developers to bid; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and further steps proposed by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) No, Sir. No bid was received for 13 out of 63 projects and 7 out of 43 projects for which bids were invited by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) in the years 2009-10 and 2010-11 respectively.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. A large number of the projects have attracted responses from bidders which validates the estimation of Total Project Cost (TPC) for National Highway Development Projects (NHDP).

Increased deaths in road accidents

296. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that deaths in road accident in the country are on the rise;

(b) the details of such fatal accidents since 2008 and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what action Government is taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MAHADEV S. KHANDELA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The data relating to fatal accidents after 2008 is not compiled yet. The number of road accidents, fatal accidents, persons killed and persons injured during the years 2001 to 2008 (the latest available data) is given in the table below:

Number of Accidents and Number of persons involved: 2001 to 2008

Year	Number of Accidents		Number of Persons		Accident
	Total	Fatal	Killed	Injured	Severity*
2001	405637	71219	80888	405216	19.9
2002	407497	73650	84674	408711	20.8
2003	406726	73589	85998	435122	21.1
2004	429910	79357	92618	464521	21.5
2005	439255	83491	94968	465282	21.6
2006	460920	93917	105749	496481	22.9
2007	479216	101161	114444	513340	23.8
2008	484704	106591	119860	523193	24.7

* Accident severity: No. of persons killed per one hundred accidents

Road accidents are mainly caused due to a number of factors such as driver's fault, mechanical defects in the vehicles, fault of pedestrians, bad road, bad weather, cattle, fallen trees etc. Other factors that contribute to road accidents are increase in vehicular population, increase in population, heterogeneous traffic, modern high speed vehicles, increase in road space, etc.

(c) This Ministry has taken several steps to improve road safety for road users which are as under:

- (i) Road safety is an integral part of road design at the planning stage for National Highways/Expressways.
- (ii) Various steps to enhance road safety such as 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.

- (iv) Setting up of Driving Training Schools 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 and Maintenance contracts.
- (ix) Widening and improvements of National Highways from 2 lanes to 4 lanes and 4 lanes to 6 lanes etc.

In addition to that, the Government has already taken steps to create a dedicated body on Road Safety and Traffic Management, which would oversee the entire road safety activities in the country including capacity building in the field of research, training on road safety and preparation of action plan for better administration of road safety etc. As an interim measure, the Government has constituted an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of the Secretary of this Ministry to oversee road safety and traffic management issues in a comprehensive manner. The Committee has recently recommended a Road Safety Action Plan to the Government.

Non-completion of Pinjore to Trail Timber section of NH

297. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that with the project to four-lane the 29 Km. section of the national highway from Pinjore to Timber Trail is falling behind schedule and the traffic woes of commuters are not likely to improve in near future as the project to be completed in December, 2010 but so far only 78 per cent of work has been completed;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;