

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.

(d) and (e) A Committee set up under the Chairmanship of Shri S. Sundar, former Secretary of Ministry of Surface Transport, has recommended creation of a National Road Safety and Traffic Management Board through an Act of Parliament. As recommended by the Committee, the Board would have powers to set standards for the design, construction and maintenance of National Highways, safety standards for Motor Vehicles besides having powers to issue guidelines on number of issues concerning road safety. The recommendations of the committee were examined by the Ministry in consultation with State Governments and other concerned Ministries/Departments including Ministry of Law and Justice. A bill for creation of National Road Safety and Traffic Management Board was accordingly introduced in Lok Sabha on 4.5.2010 which was later referred to Parliamentary Standing Committee for examination. The Committee has submitted its recommendations on 21.7.2010. The Government has already examined the recommendations of the Committee and has initiated necessary process to incorporate certain amendments in the bill in line with the recommendations of the Committee for consideration of the Parliament.

Guarantee period for repairing of roads

874. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Highways Authority of India have sought funds from Government for repairing of roads;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has assessed the guarantee period for road laying before sanctioning the amount;
- (d) if not, the details of such roads which have undergone wear and tear before the guarantee period; and
- (e) if so, the action taken by Government against the errant persons/officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has sought Rs. 555.8 crore for maintenance and repair of completed stretches and Rs. 246.25 crore

for the maintenance of stretches where development activities have not been taken up for National Highways, under National Highways Development Project (NHDP).

(c) to (e) Maintenance and repair of National Highways is a continuous process and repair of wear & tear of the roads is the responsibility of the contractors/concessionaire during defects liability/concession periods.

Economic loss due to road accidents

†875. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey conducted by the Planning Commission in the year 2002 had indicated that country has to bear huge financial losses every year due to road accidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount spent by Government during the last three years to make travelling by road safe, State-wise and the details of achievements made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI TUSHARBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) and &(b) Yes Sir. 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.

(c) The funds allocated for various Road safety programmes are not earmarked State-wise but are based on approved schemes pertaining to Road safety. The details of funds allocated and spent on various road safety schemes, during the last three years including current year are as under:-

Year	Total Amount (in cr.)	Expenditure (Rs. In crore)
2008-09	73.00	54.89
2009-10	79.00	22.39
2010-11	81.00	41.65 (till date)

Road Safety schemes are a long term permanent measure essential to ensure road safety which can only be attained through large efforts over a long period of time. The Ministry has been providing funds for following major schemes for improvement of the road safety in the country:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.