

Closure of roads due to construction of Badarpur bridge

†1637. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the entry and the exit roads of the nearby colonies of Delhi and Haryana area have faced closure due to construction of bridge at Badarpur border;

(b) whether the residents of these nearby colonies are required to cover a long distance in travelling;

(c) whether public representatives of the local people had given memoranda to the concerned officers in this regard from time to time; and

(d) the measures being taken to solve the above said problem, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) No sir. The entry and exit for nearby colonies of Delhi and Haryana area have been provided through service roads and at grade roads. The residents of the nearby colonies can easily access the at-grade NH 2 through the service roads.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) One entry and exit has been provided at km 17.600 on left hand side (LHS) that also acts as access to Badarpur village through a 5.5 m wide service road. This service road has an opening to NH-2 (at grade road) at km 17.500 also. Another access is provided through an opening in the service road to NH-2 at km 16.950 on left hand side (LHS). Therefore, two access points are available within a length of 550m.

Constitution of National Road Safety and Traffic Management

†1638. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken notice of large number of the accidents taking place on various national/express highways in the country;

(b) if so, the total number of fatal accidents reported till date since 2009;

(c) the action taken by Government to prevent road accidents along with the steps taken to increase the compensation given to the victims;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) whether Committee on Road Safety and Traffic Management has recommended constitution of a National Road Safety and Traffic Management Board for better road safety;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the other recommendations made by the Committee; and

(f) the follow up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI TUSHARBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The total number of fatal accidents for the year 2008 (the latest available data) in the country was 106591 resulting in death of 119860 persons. The information for the year 2009 onwards has not yet been compiled.

(c) The Government has already initiated action for the passage of Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill 2007 by the Parliament which, *inter alia*, includes the proposal for enhanced compensation, both in hit and run cases as well as those cases in which the vehicle causing accident has been identified. To prevent the increasing number of road accidents in the country, this Ministry has taken several steps as under:

- (i) It is ensured that Road safety is an integral part of road design at the planning stage for National Highways/Expressways.
- (ii) 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 & Maintenance contracts.
- (ix) Widening and improvements of National Highways from 2 lanes to 4 lanes and 4 lanes to 6 lanes etc.

(d) to (f) 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 examined all 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.

Roads damaged due to rains and floods

†1639. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that some of the National Highways have got damaged extensively due to heavy rains and floods, this year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the stretch of the highways to be repaired by the toll tax collectors has been completed;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.