

Expedition of National Highway Development Programme

1330. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government received representation for expedition of National Highway Development Programme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has also been requested to double the strength of current board in NHAI for speeding up implementation of NHAI projects;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the other alternative measures taken by Government to meet the target of 20 km. per day; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. References received regarding National Highway Development Project (NHDP) are mainly for accelerating the construction of delayed projects, changing proposed alignment of some stretches, demand for new bypasses/flyovers/underpasses, reduction of Right of Way etc.

(c) No Sir.

(d) and (e) In order to expedite implementation of NHDP, Government approved revamping of procedures by accepting the recommendations of Shri B.K. Chaturvedi Committee, which proposed various measures to accelerate the process of award of projects. Subsequently, the pace of award of projects has been increased. Annual pre-qualification of bidders has been introduced. Regional Offices each headed by Chief General Manager have been set up by NHAI for close monitoring of implementation of projects. Two zonal offices each headed by Executive Director have been set up at Bhopal and Bangalore for close monitoring of pre-construction activities. Achievement of targets is being monitored closely. Projects are periodically reviewed at field and at Head Quarter.

Deaths due to non-wearing of helmets

1331. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of deaths by two wheelers that have occurred in the country during the last five years due to the rider's not wearing helmet;
- (b) the steps Government has taken to ensure the implementation of traffic rules of wearing helmets;
- (c) whether Government has specified the standard of helmets for the riders and whether they are safe and provide adequate protection; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (DR. TUSHAR CHAUDHARY): (a) Accident data is compiled in the Ministry in a format developed as per the Asia Pacific Road Accident Database (APRAD) project of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific (UNESCAP) region. The first Publication available with the Ministry in this format is for the calendar year 2006 and the latest is for the year 2009. The said format does not separately indicate deaths caused due to two wheeler riders not wearing helmet. However, the total number of deaths in road accidents during the period 2006-2009 where two-wheelers were primarily responsible for the accident is given below:—

Total number of deaths in road accidents where two-wheelers were primarily responsible for the accident	
Year	Number of deaths due to two-wheelers
2006	17,105
2007	18,503
2008	19,230
2009	19,728

(b) As per the provisions of Section 129 of Motor Vehicle (MV) Act, 1988, every person except a Sikh wearing a turban, driving or riding otherwise than in a side car, on a motor cycle of any class or description, shall, while in a public place, wear protective headgear conforming to the standards of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). Section 177 of MV Act, 1988 prescribes punishment for violating any provision of MV Act. Implementation of various provisions of MV Act, 1988 is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations. This Ministry launches awareness drives from time to time to educate two wheeler riders, through various publicity campaigns in print and electronic media to wear helmets conforming to the specification laid down by the BIS.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. BIS has published Indian Standard IS 4151:1993 "Protective Helmets for Motorcycle Riders-Specification" for protection against hazards connected with driving on roads.

This standard lays down the requirements regarding material, construction, workmanship, finish, mass and performance for protective helmets for everyday use by motorcycle riders. To ensure safety of riders, it covers performance requirements such as Impact Absorption Test,

Resistance to Penetration Test, Rigidity Test, Dynamic Test of Retention System, Audibility Test etc.

Modes of transport in Delhi and Haryana

†1332. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for modes of transport like Mono-Rail other than Metro Trains in Delhi and Haryana are under consideration;

(b) the extent to which the above alternative measures would prove useful in future keeping in view the traffic congestion, jams and pollution on the roads alongwith the details in this regard; and

(c) the details of other proposed schemes to tackle the traffic in view of the growing population and urbanization in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (DR. TUSHAR CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per available information, no such proposal is currently under consideration by the Government.

(c) Urban Transport is inter-twined with urban development which is a state subject. As such, the responsibility for improving local transport services primarily rests with the State Government. However, realizing the seriousness of rapidly growing problem of urban transportation, the Central Government has taken active steps like formulating National Urban Transport Policy (NUTP), financing of buses for Urban Transport, Bus Rapid Transit System Projects, traffic transit management centres under Urban Transport under Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and sanction of metro railway projects for various cities.

Working groups to check road accidents

1333. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has formed five working groups to suggest measures to check menace of road accidents in the country;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made by the working groups;

(c) whether the Road Safety Council has deliberated on the above recommendations; and

(d) if so, the outcome of such deliberations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (DR. TUSHAR CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has constituted five separate

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.