

Lives lost in road accidents

2084. DR. K. P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether every four minutes a life is lost in road accidents in the country with 1,40,000 deaths recorded in 2012 alone;
- (b) whether in the past decade, over a million people have lost their lives in road accidents in the country and over 5 million have been left seriously injured or permanently disabled;
- (c) whether road safety has been a victim of India's policy paralysis since 2001; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) and (b) As per the "Road Accidents in India 2012" published by Transport Research Wing of Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, 1,38,258 death were recorded in 2012 due to road accidents. This number translate into one road accident death in four minutes. In the last ten years from 2003 to 2012, 11,54,553 people have lost their lives in road accidents in the country and 49,61,970 have been left seriously injured.

(c) and (d) A Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri S. Sundar, former Secretary, Ministry of Surface Transport was constituted in 2005 *inter-alia* to recommend a draft National Road Safety Policy. The Committee recommended the draft National Road Safety Policy which was approved by the Government in March 2010. Based on the approved National Road Safety Policy, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has adopted a multi pronged strategy to improve road safety. The Ministry also formed five separate working groups on four E's of Road Safety viz. (i) Education (ii) Enforcement (iii) Engineering (roads as well as vehicles) and (iv) emergency care. The working groups submitted its report which was placed on the website of the Ministry for implementation by the State Government.

Removal of toll from National Highways

†2085. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a delegation of the Maharashtra Government had met with the Minister seeking removal of toll from National Highways;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the State Government has stopped toll collection from 44 toll booths in the State;
- (d) whether the Central Government proposes to stop toll collection from all the National Highways in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) Collection of toll is an issue and from time to time various delegations have mentioned this.

- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) No, Sir.
- (e) Does not arise.

Stepping up of NHDP

2086. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a need to step up the National Highways Development Programme (NHDP) with an aggressive pursuit of Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) to construct toll roads on Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) basis;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) how many highway projects have been identified for construction on PPP basis in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is a need to step up the National Highways Development Programme (NHDP) as the nation urgently need high-quality highways for sustainable development and prosperity. But, considering the current market conditions, particularly with reference to the highway sector, current focus of the Government would be on implementation of highways through public funded