1	2	3
		the State of Haryana, Delhi, Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Rampur, Bilaspur in the State of Uttar Pradesh, Rudrapur, Sitarganj, Khatima, Tanakpur, Pithoragarh, Ogla and terminating at Askot near Indo/Nepal border in the State of Uttarakhand.
Uttarakhand	707A	The highway starting from its junction with NH No. 707 at Tiuni connecting Chakrata, Bhediyana, Mussoorie, New Tehri and terminating at its junction with NH No. 7 at Srinagar in the State of Uttarakhand.

[RAJYA SABHA]

Unstarred Questions

266 Written Answers to

Uttarakhand

309B

Rise in road accidents

Uttarakhand.

The highway starting from its junction with new NH No. 109 near Almora and terminating at its junction with new NH No. 9 at Rameshwar in the State of

1700. SHRI NARENDERA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been an increase in road accidents in the country during the recent years;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise since 2010; and
- (c) what are the preventive measures taken by Government to check accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) and (b) The total number of road accidents in the country for last five calendar years from 2010-2014 are given below:

Year	Total Number of Road Accidents	
2010	4,99,628	
2011	4,97,686	
2012	4,90,383	
2013	4,86,476	
2014	4,89,400	

⁽c) The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has taken a number of steps to prevent road accidents as per details mentioned under:

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has taken a number of steps to implement the said target:

- (i) The Government has approved a National Road Safety Policy. This Policy outlines various policy measures such as promoting awareness, establishing road safety information data base, encouraging safer road infrastructure including application of intelligent transport, enforcement of safety laws etc.
- (ii) The Government has constituted the National Road Safety Council as the apex body to take policy decisions in matters of road safety.
- (iii) The Ministry has requested all States/UTs for setting up of State Road Safety Council and District Road Safety Committees, and to hold their meetings regularly.
- (iv) The Ministry has formulated a multi-pronged strategy to address the issue of road safety based on 4 'E's *viz*. Education, Engineering (both of roads and vehicles), Enforcement and Emergency Care.
- (v) Road safety has been made an integral part of road design at planning stage.
- (vi) Road Safety Audit of selected stretches of National Highways has been taken up.
- (vii) High priority has been accorded to identification and rectification of black spots (accident prone spots) on national highways. Around 700 such black spots have been identified for improvement.
- (viii) The threshold for four laning of national highway has been reduced from 15,000 Passenger Car Units (PCUs) to 10,000 PCUs. About 52,000 Km. of stretches of State Highways has been identified for conversion to national highways.
- (ix) Setting up of model driving training institutes in States and refresher training to drivers of Heavy Motor Vehicle in the unorganized sector.
- (x) Advocacy/Publicity campaign on road safety through the electronic and print media.
- (xi) Tightening of safety standards for vehicles like Seat Belts, Power-steering, anti-lock braking system etc.
- (xii) Providing cranes and ambulances to various State Governments under the National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme for development on National Highways. 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.

(xiii) Launch of pilot projects for providing cashless treatment of road accident victims on Gurgaon–Jaipur, Vadodara–Mumbai stretch of National Highways No. 8 and Ranchi–Rargaon-Mahulia stretch of National Highway No. 33.

Construction of highways in Himalayan region

- 1701. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of plan to build a highway connecting Kedarnath in Uttarakhand and the probable dates of its beginning and completion along with the cost likely to be incurred thereon;
- (b) whether Government has planned highways in the Himalayan region connecting all the Himalayan States; and
- (c) if so, the details of places to be connected, length of highways, cost involved and dates of beginning and completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) Presently, the connectivity through National Highway for Kedarnath in Uttarakhand is up to Gaurikund, beyond which there is pedestrian pathway of 17 km. length. The project of widening and improvement of National Highway to two lane with/without Paved Shoulder from Rudraprayag to Gaurikund for 76 km. length is being taken up in a phased manner. The start of development and improvement of works is targeted for commencement from 2016-17 with completion by 2020. During last two years, works amounting to ₹ 350 crore have already been sanctioned on this National Highway.

- (b) No Sir.
- (c) Does not arise

1702. [Question was cancelled].

Clusters identified under SPMRM

- 1703. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government has launched the Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM) for 300 rural growth clusters;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the break up of these 300 clusters, State-wise;