

Accidents with mentally challenged women

†633. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mentally challenged women are turning victims of accidents and misbehaviour on the roads in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of steps being taken by Government to put a check on it, Statewise?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): (a) As informed by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, the data on road accidents from all States/UTs is being collected 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. However, this format does not include the field pertaining to mentally challenged women killed or injured in road accidents. Similarly, National Crime Record Bureau has also informed that no specific data regarding misbehavior with mentally challenged women on the roads is being maintained.

(b) The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has taken a number of steps to prevent road accidents in the country as under:

- (i) The Government has approved a National Road Safety Policy which 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 National Road Safety Council has been constituted as the apex body to take policy decisions in matters of road safety.
- (iii) All States/UTs has been requested for setting up of State Road Safety Council and District Road Safety Committees, and to hold their meetings regularly.
- (iv) A multi-pronged strategy has been formulated 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.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (vii) High priority has been accorded to identification and rectification of black spots (accident prone spots) on national highways.
- (viii) The threshold for four laning of national highway has been reduced from 15,000 Passenger Car Units (PCUs) to 10,000 PCUs.
- (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.

Similarly, for Safety of Women the “Criminal Law (Amendment), Act 2013” has been enacted making the punishment more stringent for offences like rape. New offences like acid attack, sexual harassment, voyeurism and stalking, disrobing a woman, have been incorporated in the Indian Penal Code. The Ministry of Home Affairs has issued an advisory to States/UTs on 12th May, 2015 regarding “Comprehensive approach towards crime against women”.

New legislation to deal with child in rape cases

634. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Supreme Court (SC) has asked Government to bring in a new legislation to deal with child, particularly below ten years, who are victims of rape;

(b) whether it is also a fact that SC has also asked Government to separately define child’ and

(c) if so, what steps Government has taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.