

AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA): (a) to (c) Government never tolerates corruption. Contractor/concessionaire are expected to carry out work as per laid down standards and specifications. Contract/concession Agreement provides adequate provisions to ensure quality of work. Progress of work has not been affected due to paucity of funds.

#### **Toll on NHs**

1378. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than one lakh people have lost their lives in road accidents in the country in the year 2017;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to ensure safe travel on the highways;

(c) whether Government has any plan for stopping highway toll collections in view of the deteriorating condition of various National Highways throughout the country; and

(d) if not, the measures being taken to ensure that toll roads are at least, fit to travel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) As per the data received from police department of States/UTs, 1,47,913 persons were killed in road accidents in the country during the calendar year 2017.

Government has taken following steps to ensure safe travel on the highways:—

- (1) 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.
- (2) The Government has constituted the National Road Safety Council as the apex body to take policy decisions in matters of road safety.
- (3) The ministry has constituted Group of Ministers of State Transport Ministers to examine the best practices of transport and suggest issues to improve road safety.
- (4) Based on the recommendation of Group of Minister, the ministry introduced Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Bill 2017 covering entire gamut of road safety.

- (5) The Bill contains the provision of creation of motor vehicle accident fund, implementation of Cashless Treatment Scheme during golden hour, setting up of a dedicated agency for road safety viz. National Road Safety and Traffic Management Board (NRSTMB), enhancement of penalty for traffic rule violations, etc. which have direct impact on road safety.
- (6) 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.
- (7) Road safety has been made an integral part of road design at planning stage.
- (8) Road Safety Audit of selected stretches of National Highways has been taken up.
- (9) 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.
- (10) Setting up of model driving training institutes in States and refresher training to drivers of heavy motor vehicle in the unorganized sector.
- (11) Advocacy/publicity campaign on road safety through the electronic and print media.
- (12) Tightening of safety standards for vehicles like seat belts, anti-lock braking system etc.
- (13) High priority has been accorded to identification and rectification of black spots (accident prone spots) on National Highways.
- (14) Guidelines for identification and rectification of black spots, carrying out road safety audits and preparation of road safety improvement proposals on NHs and also guidelines on implementation of road safety engineering measures on state roads under Central Road Fund (CRF) have been issued.
- (15) 789 black spots based on fatalities in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 calendars years have been identified. So far 189 spots have already been rectified. Rectification measures at 256 spots have been sanctioned which are in various stages of implementation. 138 spots are on State Government roads/ with other agencies. The balance 206 spots would be taken separately or would be rectified as part of ongoing projects.
- (16) As a measure of supplementing the efforts of States/UTs for minimizing the accident potential at the identified locations/stretches through engineering

improvement on state roads, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways had taken a decision to sanction road safety works on state roads with an earmarked allocation of 10% of funds allocated to the state roads under Central Road Fund.

- (17) Ministry has delegated powers to regional officers of MORTH for technical approval to the detailed estimates for rectification of identified road accident black spots for expediting the rectification process to ensure safety of road users.
- (18) Ministry had issued guidelines *vide* O.M. dated 14.1.2016 for taking up of Road Safety Audits on National Highways either as part of EPC/BOT projects or as stand-alone Road Safety Audits.
- (19) Guidelines for pedestrian facilities on National Highways for persons with disabilities have also been issued to all States/UTs.
- (20) In order to ensure safe and smooth flow of traffic, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has envisaged a plan for replacement of all the Level Crossing on National Highways by ROB/RUBs and replacement/widening/strengthening of weak and narrow bridges under a scheme Setu Bhartam. Under this programme, construction of 208 level crossings at an estimated cost of ₹ 20,800 crore are included.
- (21) Two National Level Workshops and several Regional Training workshops in 11 States have been organized on Road Safety Engineering.
- (22) A Certification Course for Road Safety Auditors has been commenced in Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE) and 42 Auditors are certified.
- (23) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has constituted a District Road Safety Committee in each district of the country to promote awareness amongst road users under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) from the district.
- (24) During 2017-18, NHAI has conducted the "Free Eye Check-up" campaign at 50 selected Toll-Plazas in order to reduce the no. of accidents involving Multi Axle Vehicles/Trucks and distributed free glasses to the Truck Drivers having poor vision.

(c) and (d) User Fee is being collected on NHs as per NHAI Fee Rule. The National Highway stretches under NHAI are being maintained in traffic worthy condition in accordance with inbuilt contract provisions of concession agreement/contract agreement of respective stretch project.