

Accidents on NHs in Tamil Nadu

2575. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of accidents are occurring on the National Highways in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the preventive steps that have been taken to reduce road accidents in Tamil Nadu;

(c) whether any of the suggestions of Road Safety Forum being implemented in other States would be tried in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) the steps proposed to enhance road safety in Tamil Nadu, increase ambulances, road safety measures and trauma facilities on the highways in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Based on the report received from Government of Tamil Nadu, the number of accidents occurring on National Highways in Tamil Nadu is around 20000 per year.

(b) Government has taken a number of steps so as to bring down reduction in accidents on National Highways in Tamil Nadu. Out of the total length of 4462 km, around 2800 kms are being upgraded from two-lane to four-lane divided carriageway under National Highways Development Project Phase I, II and III. These would have safety features such as service roads in built up stretches, improved junctions, Road Over Bridges, safe pedestrian crossings and better signs and road markings. The balance two-lane sections are also being improved with safety measures.

(c) Suggestions of road safety forum are duly considered wherever required; and

(d) Provision of adequate safety measures such as service roads, flyovers, underpasses, ambulances, traffic signs, trauma facilities etc have been proposed under National Highways Development Project.

Recommendations on port security

2576. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry had constituted a Committee on 1st May, 2007 under Chairmanship of Chairman, Cochin Port Trust to review the security aspects of all major ports and shipyards under the control of Department of Shipping and recommend further steps to be taken to enhance the security arrangements, within 30 days;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations; and

(c) whether suitable security measures have accordingly been taken?