

Chardham Program. However, based on the reports from expert DPR consultants, adequate mitigative measures to protect ecology and environment such as adequate/sufficient slope protection, stabilization of chronic landslide and sinking spots/zones by way of erection of retaining walls and breast walls and by deploying drapery system, netting, anchoring, reinforced wall, bio engineering measures such as hydro-seeding for vegetative growth on fragile slopes for their stability, plantation of trees by State Forest Deptt in lieu of trees felled for which levy for compensatory afforestation by the Ministry, provision of sufficient surface and sub-surface drainage in the form of adequate no of culverts, minor and major bridges and road side drains etc. have been taken in the projects under Chardham Program.

Accidents on NHs

1062. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether National Highways in India are the most dangerous in the world and one life is snuffed out every 3.6 minutes;
- (b) the number of accidents which occurred on National Highways (NHs) during the last three years and the number of lives lost in these accidents, NH/year-wise;
- (c) whether accident prone areas on NHs have been identified and if so, steps taken to fix them;
- (d) whether any study has been conducted to ascertain the cause of accidents on NHs and if so, details thereof; and
- (e) the details of medical facilities available on NHs?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) and (b) The Ministry collects data/information on road accidents from the Police Department of all State/UTs in the prescribed format on calendar year-wise. The latest data of road accidents published by the ministry are for the calendar year 2017 which reveals that during 2017 almost 30% of total road accidents in the country happened on National Highways. Details of accidents and number of persons killed in road accidents on National Highways in the country during the last three calendar years *i.e.* 2015 to 2017 are given at below:

Years	Total Number of Accidents on National Highways (NHs)	Total Number of Persons Killed on National Highways (in numbers)
2015	1,42,268	51,204
2016	1,42,359	52,075
2017	1,41,466	53,181

(c) Ministry has been making concerted efforts towards improvement of road safety through engineering measures on National Highways. 789 black spots based on fatalities in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 calendar years have been identified and notified with unique ID numbers assigned to each of the spots. A total of 506 black spots are under the jurisdiction of NHAI, 144 black spots are under the jurisdiction of State PWD (NH), 139 black spots are under State Government. Guidelines have been prepared and notified for investigation and rectification of the road accident black spots on National Highways. So far 362 black spots have been rectified.

(d) The Ministry analyses the road accidents data received from the Police Department of the States/UTs and public the report „Road Accidents in India% annually. As per the report, Road accidents occur due to multiple causes such as use of Mobile phone, drunken driving/consumption of alcohol/ drug, overloaded Vehicle, poor light condition, jumping red light, over speeding, overtaking, neglect of civic bodies, weather condition, fault of driver, driving on wrong side, defect in road condition, defect in condition of motor vehicle, fault of cyclist, fault of pedestrian etc.

(e) The Government has launched a mobile app for highway users *i.e.* „Sukhad Yatra 1033% which enables highways users to report safety hazards on National Highways including accidents. GPS enabled ambulances connected with a central control room through a toll-free number 1033, are stationed to transport the injured to the hospitals for treatment within the ÂGolden HourÊ As part of incident management under operation and maintenance of the NH stretches, Highway Ambulances are deployed in their respective service area to extend assistance in case of any emergency on National Highways.

Causes behind increasing road accidents

1063. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the major cause for the increasing road accidents in the country is the rapid urbanisation, poor safety, lack of enforcement, distraction, influence of drugs or alcohol, speeding and failure to wear seat belts or helmets;