

India (NHAI) is implementing ATMS (Advance Traffic Management System) on EPE (Eastern Peripheral Expressway) with installation of CCTV cameras and control systems, to monitor speed violations, lane discipline etc.

Road accidents on National Highways

3304. DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of road accidents which take place every year on National Highways (NHs) in the country, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any compensation has been provided by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI);
- (c) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the details of measures taken up by the Ministry to control accidents during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI) : (a) As per information received from police department of all States/UTs, the total number of road accidents on National Highways (including expressways) in the country for the calendar years *i.e* 2015 to 2017 is given in the table below:-

Years	Total Number of accidents on National Highways in the country
2015	142268
2016	142359
2017	141466

(b) and (c) The provisions relating to compensation for the road accident victims and their kith and Kin are uniform across the country and provided in the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

(d) The National Road Safety 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. The Ministry has taken number of steps to address the issue of road

safety. These are based on Education, Engineering (both of roads and vehicles), Enforcement and Emergency Care. The Ministry of Road Transport & 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.

In addition to the above, the initiatives of the Ministry to promote road safety are listed as below:

- (i) Advocacy/Publicity campaign on road safety through the electronic media and print media to create awareness.
- (ii) Issue of Guidelines for protection of Good Samaritans.
- (iii) Setting up of model driving training Institutes in States.
- (iv) Sanction of 22 inspection and certification Centres for testing the fitness of the commercial vehicles through an automated system.
- (v) Launch of mobile app for highway users *i.e.* "Sukhad Yatra 1033" which enables highways users to report potholes and other safety hazards on National Highways including accidents.
- (vi) Observance of Road Safety Week every calendar year for spreading awareness and strengthening road safety.
- (vii) Road safety has been made an integral part of road design at planning stage.
- (viii) The threshold for four laning of national highway has been reduced from 15,000 Passenger Car Units (PCUs) to 10,000 PCUs.
- (ix) Safety standards for automobiles have been improved.
- (x) High priority has been accorded to identification and rectification of black spots (accident prone spots) on national highways.
- (xi) 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.
- (xii) Guidelines for pedestrian facilities on National Highways for persons with disabilities have also been issued to all States/UTs.

- (xiii) A Certification Course for Road Safety Auditors has been commenced in Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE) and 42 Auditors are certified.
- (xiv) Free Eye Check-up Camp and distribution of eye glasses is conducted for truck/bus drivers operating on NH.
- (xv) Removal of Liquor Shops as per directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court vide circular of F. No. RW/NH-33044/309/2016/S&R dated 06-04-2017 and 01-06-2017.

Conversion of State Highways into NHs

3305. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has taken a decision to declare about 39,040 kms. length of State roads as new National Highways;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that many State Governments have asked more State roads to be declared as National Highways in addition to the above; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI) : (a) to (d) The Ministry keeps on receiving proposals from various State Governments/Union Territories (UTs), etc., for declaration of State roads as new National Highways (NHs). The Ministry considers declaration of some State roads as new NHs from time to time based on requirement of connectivity, *inter-se* priority and availability of funds.

About 40,650 km length of State roads have been notified as NHs after April, 2014.

Proposed conversion of Highways as NHs

3306. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government has approved in-principle declaration of about 53,031 km. of State roads as new National Highways;