

High rate of accidents on highways/expressways

*302. DR. ASHOK BAJPAI : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the rate of accidents on Indian highways/expressways is higher than the world average;
- (b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years;
- (c) the reasons for such higher number of accidents on highways; and
- (d) the steps Government proposes to take to control accidents on highways/expressways?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Analysis of road accident data reported by the police department of States/UTs reveals that road accidents have been declining since 2015.

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 2018 is given in the table below:-

Years	Total Number of accidents on National Highways in the country
2015	1,42,268
2016	1,42,359
2017	1,41,466
2018	1,40,843
<i>(Provisional)</i>	

(c) Road accidents occur due to multiple causes. Some of the causes are 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, driving on wrong side, defect in road condition, defect in condition of motor vehicle, fault of cyclist, fault of pedestrian etc.

(d) With regard to the steps taken by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, details are as follows:—

- (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) 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 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. Further, the 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.
- (viii) Road safety has been made an integral part of road design at planning stage.
- (ix) The threshold for four laning of national highway has been reduced from 15,000 Passenger Car Units (PCUs) to 10,000 PCUs.
- (x) Safety standards for automobiles have been improved,

- (xi) High priority has been accorded to identification and rectification of black spots (accident prone spots) on National Highways.
- (xii) 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,
- (xiii) Guidelines for pedestrian facilities on National Highways for persons with disabilities have also been issued to all States / UTs.
- (xiv) A Certification Course for Road Safety Auditors has been commenced in Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE) and 42 Auditors are certified,
- (xv) Free Eye Check-up Camp and distribution of eye glasses is conducted for truck/bus drivers operating on NH.
- (xvi) 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.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Proposed amendments to the Indian Forest Act

*303. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry proposes to put a limit or exterminate rights recognised under the Forest Rights Act (FRA) and Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, (PESA) through an amendment made in the Indian Forest Act, if so, the details of all amendments sought to be made in the Indian Forest Act;

(b) the details of stakeholders who were consulted before the amendments in the Indian Forest Act were drafted and if no stakeholders were consulted, the reason therefor; and

(c) the details of manner in which the Ministry will ensure that no fraudulent cases get charged against forest dwellers through the amendment?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATED CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR) : (a) to (c) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate