

Deaths due to road traffic accidents

2370. DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of road traffic accidents and the number of deaths due to road traffic accidents have increased in the year 2018 as compared to previous years, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether measures have been taken to prevent drunken driving, as studies have shown that drunken driving is associated with high incidence of road traffic accidents; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) The Ministry analyses the road accidents based on the data received from the Police Department of all States/UTs. The number of road accidents and persons killed in road accidents in India during the last three calendar years *i.e.* 2016 to 2018 are as under:

Years	Number of road accidents	Number of persons killed in road accidents
2016	4,80,652	1,50,785
2017	4,64,910	1,47,913
2018	4,67,044	1,51,417

(b) and (c) The Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Bill, 2019 passed by Parliament focuses on road safety. The penalty for drunken driving has been substantially increased by Motor vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019. The Amendment also provides for setting up of a National Road Safety Board. The Amendment has strengthened the law to improve the road safety scenario and reduce loss of lives. The Ministry has also notified fitment of speed limiting devices on all transport vehicles.

The Ministry issues regulations to improve vehicle safety standards, undertakes site specific interventions to-address black spots, and also mobilises various activities to promote road safety such as road safety advocacy and awareness programmes.

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 has been ordered.

Use of plastic waste in road construction

2371. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government to use plastic waste in road construction in the country, after it was made mandatory in 2015;

(b) whether eco-friendly initiative of using plastic waste in road construction is economically feasible;

(c) whether Government has studied/ assessed the impact of such roads and whether Government intends to replace bitumen with plastic waste in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) to (d) To encourage use of waste plastic on National Highways (NHs), Ministry has issued Guidelines for its use within 50 km periphery of urban areas having population of more than 5 lakh. The Guidelines also stipulate taking up of a stretch of at least 10 km as pilot project for assessment of its performance. Moreover, Government has decided that in 2019-20 the "Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign (SHS)" will focus on plastic waste management as main theme, wherein instructions have been issued for collection and re-use of waste plastic. This includes awareness generation, recycling, effective disposal of collected plastic waste including its usage in road construction. Until now waste plastic has already been utilised in wearing course of about 50 km of NH stretches. Indian Roads Congress (IRC) has formulated IRC SP: 98:2013 "Guidelines for the use of Waste Plastic in Hot Bituminous Mixes (Dry process) in Wearing Courses" based on laboratory as well as field performance studies/investigations carried out in India. As per IRC SP: 98: 2013, plastic waste is used up to 8 percent by weight of bitumen in the bituminous wearing course and as per mix design requirement.

Fixing of liabilities for insurance companies under MV Act, 2019

2372. SHRI KUMAR KETKAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state: