

priority, traffic density and overall available resources to keep the NHs in Traffic worthy conditions.

Various sources of financing NH projects in the country, including that in the State of Odisha, includes budgetary allocations [comprising of NHs share of Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF) Cess, Toll remittances, Toll-Operate-Transfer (TOT), etc.], Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR) of NHAI, private sector funding, etc.

Declaration of a road as NH in Kerala

923. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether declaration of Kozhikode-Nilambur-Gudallur road as National Highway is under consideration;

(b) if so, the status thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) to (c) No proposal for declaration of Kozhikode-Nilambur-Gudallur road as National Highway has been received in this Ministry. This Ministry keeps on receiving proposals for declaration of various State Roads/Highways as new National Highways (NHs) from various States/Union Territories (UTs) including the Government of Kerala. This Ministry considers declaration of some State Roads/Highways as new NHs from time to time keeping in view the requirement of connectivity, *inter-se* priority and availability of funds.

Road accidents in the country

†924. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is home to more road accidents than other countries of the world;

(b) if so, whether Government is considering to take any concrete and effective steps to put a check thereon; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) As per global status report on road safety 2018 of World Health Organization (WHO) published by them on the based on road accidents data for 2016, India is one of the leading countries where number of road accidents are higher.

The Ministry analyses the road safety issues on the basis of road accidents data received from the police department of States/UTs. As per States/UTs report, the total number of road accidents for the last three years are as under:—

Years	Total Number of Road Accidents (in numbers)
2016	4,80,652
2017	4,64,910
2018	4,67,044

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is very much concerned about road safety in the country. 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 norms enforcement of safety laws etc. The Ministry has formulated a multi-pronged strategy to address the issue of road safety based on education, engineering (both of roads and vehicles), enforcement and emergency care. Further, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has constituted a Parliamentary Constituency Committee for road safety 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.

The Ministry has constituted Group of Ministers of State Transport Ministers to examine the best practices of transport and suggest issues to improve road safety. Based on the recommendation of Group of Ministers, the Ministry introduced and Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Act, 2019 was passed by the Parliament which includes entire gamut of road safety.

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 24 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) 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.