

**Action taken to prevent road accidents**

3328. SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:

SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV:

LT. GEN. (DR.) D. P. VATS (RETD.):

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action has been taken by Government to prevent road accidents in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps being taken to educate the people particularly the youths of the country in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) and (b) The Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Act, 2019 recently passed by Parliament focuses on road safety and includes, *inter-alia*, revision in penalties for traffic violations, electronic monitoring of the same, enhanced penalties for juvenile driving, computerization/automation of vehicle fitness and driving, tests, recall of defective vehicles, streamlining the third party insurance and payment of increased compensation for hit and run cases etc. The Amendment has strengthened the Law to improve the road Safety scenario and reduce loss of lives.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has notified "Member of Parliaments' 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.

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. Accordingly, various initiatives have been taken by the Ministry as detailed below:-

(i) Education:

- The Ministry implements a scheme for undertaking publicity measures and awareness campaigns on road safety to create awareness among road users through the electronic media, print media, NGOs etc.
- Observance of National Road Safety Week every year for spreading awareness

and strengthening road safety.

- A Certification Course for Road Safety Auditors has been commenced in Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE).

(ii) Engineering (both of Roads and vehicles)

- Road engineering
  - High priority to identification and rectification of black spots (accident prone spots) on national highways.
  - Road safety has been made an integral part of road design at planning stage.
  - The threshold for four laning of national highway has been reduced from 15,000 Passenger Car Units (PCUs) to 10,000 PCUs.
  - Ministry has delegated powers to Regional Officers of MORTH for technical approval to the detailed estimates for rectification of identified Road Accident black spots.
  - Guidelines for pedestrian facilities on National Highways for persons with disabilities have also been issued to all States / UTs.
- Vehicle engineering:
  - Safety standards for automobiles have been improved.
  - Ministry has notified fitment of Speed Limiting devices on all transport vehicles
  - Scheme for setting up one model Inspection and Certification Centre in each State/UT with Central assistance for testing the fitness of vehicles through an automated system

(iii) Enforcement

- The recently passed motor vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019 provides for strict enforcement through use of technology and further provides for strict penalties for ensuring strict compliance and enhancing deterrence for violation of traffic rules.
- Issue of Guidelines for protection of Good Samaritans and draft rules as per MV(amendment) Act, 2019 has been published.

(iv) Emergency care:

- The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019 provides for a scheme for the cashless treatment of victims of the accident during the golden hour.
- The National Highways Authority of India has also deployed 466 ambulances at toll plazas on the completed corridor of National Highways.

#### **Upgradation of highways**

3329. SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:

LT. GEN. (DR.) D. P. VATS (RETD.):

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to upgrade certain highways to world class express highways in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with other steps taken/being taken by Government to boost the highways construction in the country?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) and (b) The Government of India had approved Bharatmala Pariyojana Phase-I in October, 2017 with an aggregate length of about 34,800 km (including 10,000 km residual NHDP stretches) at an estimated outlay of ₹ 5,35,000.00 crores. This programme also includes development of about 800 km length of Expressways. The works of Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway and Delhi-Meerut Expressway have been taken up under Bharatmala Pariyojana Programme.

#### **Delay in awarding highway projects**

3330. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is struggling to award more highway projects due to delay in land acquisition and the delay will slacken the pace of highway construction in the country;

(b) if so, the number of highway projects awarded for the last three years, State-wise; and