

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2223**  
ANSWERED ON- 15/03/2021

**ROAD ACCIDENTS IN THE COUNTRY**

2223            SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV:  
                  LT.GEN. (DR.) D. P. VATS (RETD.):  
                  SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:

Will the MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of road accidents have increased in the country during the last few years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government is considering to provide free of cost/cashless medical treatment to the victims of road accidents and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps being taken by Government to prevent incidents of road accidents?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) As per the data received from police department of all States/UTs the total number of road accidents & persons killed on all roads in the country for the calendar years 2016 to 2019 is shown in the table given below:

Year	Total Number of Road Accidents	%change	Number of persons killed	%change
2016	480,652	-4.14	1,50,785	3.18
2017	464,910	-3.28	1,47,913	-1.90
2018	467,044	0.46	1,51,417	2.37
2019	449,002	-3.86	1,51,113	-0.20

(b) Road Accidents are occurring due to multiple causes such as over speeding, drunken driving/consumption of alcohol, driving on wrong side/lane indiscipline, fault of the driver of motor vehicle, use of mobile phones during driving, mechanical defect/fault of the vehicle defect in road condition, weather condition and lack of knowledge on road signage etc. These various factors can broadly be categorized into human error, road condition/environment and vehicular condition that lead to accidents on roads.

(c) The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019 as passed by the Parliament, provides for a scheme for the cashless treatment of victims of the road accidents during the golden hours.

(d) 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 Highways have 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 & Certification Centre in each State/UT with Central assistance for testing the fitness of vehicles through an automated system.

**(iii) Enforcement**

- The recently passed The 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.
- Rules for protection of Good Samaritans as per the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019 have 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 550 ambulances at toll plazas on the completed corridor of National Highways.
- Out of 550 ambulances, 171 ambulances have been upgraded to Basic Life Support as per AIS-125.

The Ministry of Road Transport & 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.

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