GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-3027

ANSWERED ON- 22/03/2021

IMPLEMENTATION OF EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES ON NHs

3027. SHRI SANJAY SINGH:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that report of Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) suggests formation of a National Highways Road Safety Police (NHRSP) for strict enforcement of rules against traffic violations on highways across country;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that, if implemented, NHRSP will result in an annual reduction of 12 to 15 per cent in road accidents and fatalities and encourage good driving practices; and
- (c) if so, steps taken by Government for implementation of effective enforcement activities on National Highways (NHs), State Highways and other roads, as recommended by report?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) & (c) Road Accidents occur 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.

The steps taken by this Ministry for implementation of effective enforcement activities can be listed as 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 taken by the Ministry are 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.

Besides this 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.
