GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-934
ANSWERED ON- 19/09/2020

ROAD ACCIDENTS IN INDIA

934 # SHRI SATISH CHANDRA DUBEY:

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

(a) whether Government has taken cognizance of the World Health Organization (WHO) report according to which, India is the country with the highest number of road accidents; and

(b) the initiatives taken by Government to create road safety awareness among the youth and whether these initiatives have been successful?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

[GEN. (DR.) V.K. SINGH (RETD.)]

(a) World Health Organisation (WHO) estimated road traffic fatalities as 2,99,091 in India during 2016. However, the estimates of WHO do not indicate the actual number of fatalities due to road accidents as their estimates are based on statistical projection and several other factors. Some of the factors are total population of the country, total number of vehicles per 1000 person, total roads (km) per 1000 hectares, maximum national speed limit on rural and urban roads (km/hour), health system access available, alcohol apparent consumption, working population, percentage of total vehicles that are motorbikes, control of corruption index, existence of national policies that encourage walking and /or cycling, etc.

(b) The Ministry has taken various initiatives to promote road safety which include:

The Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Act, 2019 passed by Parliament focuses on road safety and includes, inter-alia, hike 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 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 & 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.

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