

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1859
ANSWERED ON-11/12/2024

FOG WARNING SYSTEM AT HIGHWAY

1859. SHRI ASHOKRAO SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:

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

- (a) the number of road accidents reported from highways due to fog during each of the last three years and current year;
- (b) whether Meteorology Department has proposed for deployment of advance fog warning system on road to make winter travel safer;
- (c) if so, the details in this regard along with action taken thereon;
- (d) the time by when it is likely to be finalized/installed; and
- (f) whether Government has any scheme for providing instant medical facility to the people injured in motor accidents on National Highways due to dense fog and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

- (a) As per the report published by the Central Government on Road Accidents in India, 2022, based on data received from States/UTs, total number of road accidents occurred due to foggy and misty weather condition in the country from calendar year 2019 to 2022 is given in the table below :

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Year	Number of road accidents
2019	33,602
2020*	26,541
2021*	28,934
2022	34,262

* - Covid affected years

- (b) to (d) As per information received, India Meteorological Department (IMD) has no plans for deployment of advance fog warning system on roads.

However, to improve road safety in the country, the Government has formulated a multi-pronged strategy based on Education, Engineering (both of roads and vehicles), Enforcement and Emergency Care and has taken various initiatives. The provisions/initiatives taken to avoid road accidents due to fog, inter-alia, include: -

- i. Rule 124 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR), 1989 provides that all types of lighting and light signalling devices meet the performance requirements as per AIS:010 (Rev.1) as applicable and installation requirements as per AIS:008 (Rev1). Further, the requirements of defrosting and demisting systems, if fitted, to meet the requirements as per AIS:084 (Part 1 & 2).

- ii. Rule 125B of the CMVRules, 1989 authorizes the State Governments to notify four-wheeled transport vehicles plying on designated routes or areas in hilly terrains equipped with fog lamps & defrosting and demisting systems.
- iii. Rule 189 of the CMVRules, 1989 provides for testing of fog lamps (if fitted) as per AIS-008 or AIS-008 (Rev.1), at the time of fitness of the vehicle.
- iv. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has issued Policy Circular on 03rd January, 2024 for enhancing Safety of Road Users in Foggy Weather.
- v. Installation of Delineators, cat's eye, retro-reflective tapes, safety signage boards, crash barriers, road markings, etc. along the NHs to avoid road accidents.
- vi. Installation of proper lighting in Truck/Bus lay byes, top and underside of grade separated structures and interchange areas on NHs for enhanced visibility.
- vii. Road Safety Advocacy Scheme for raising awareness about road safety among the road users.
- viii. Road Safety Awareness through print media, social media etc.

(f) The Government has implemented a pilot program for providing cashless treatment to victims of road accidents caused by use of motor vehicle in Chandigarh, Haryana, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Puducherry and Assam. on any category of road, in collaboration with National Health Authority (NHA). Under this scheme, the eligible victims are administered Health Benefit Packages relating to trauma and polytrauma care at empanelled hospitals under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri-Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY), up to a maximum of Rs. 1.5 lakh for a maximum period of 7 days from date of accident.

Further, as part of incident management, ambulances are deployed by NHAI in their respective service area, to extend assistance in case of any emergency on National Highways.

Apart from above, the Government has also issued rules for protection of Good Samaritans, means a person, who in good faith, voluntarily and without expectation of any reward or compensation renders emergency medical or non-medical care or assistance at the scene of an accident to the victim or transports such victim to the hospital.
