

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 589
ANSWERED ON 4TH FEBRUARY, 2021**

STEPS TO REDUCE HIGH RATE OF ROAD CRASHES

589. SHRI M. SELVARAJ:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India has one of the highest rates of road crashes in the world and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;**
- (b) whether about 1,50,000 people lose their lives every year on India's roads and if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto;**
- (c) whether India needs to invest \$109 billion to halve its cases of road crashes in the next decade and if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) whether high death rate on India's roads is caused by lack of investment in systemic, targeted and sustained road safety programmes and requires relevant investment priorities to reverse the trend; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof and steps being taken by the Government in this regard?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) to (e) Road accidents continue to be a major developmental issue, a public health concern and a leading cause of death and injury across the World killing around 1.35 million globally. As per available information, the total number of road accidents and the number of

persons killed in such accidents in the country during the calendar year 2018 are as under:-

Years	Total Road Accidents.	%change	Total persons killed	% change over
2018	4,67,044	0.46	1,51,417	2.37
2019	4,49,002	-3.86	1,51,113	- 0.20

The Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Act, 2019 which was 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 issues regulations to improve vehicle safety standards, undertakes site specific interventions to address black spots, and also mobilises various activities to promote road safety such as road safety advocacy and awareness programmes.

Besides this 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 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.**
