

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1830
ANSWERED ON 29TH JULY, 2021**

ROAD SAFETY ON NHS

1830. SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by the Government for the road safety on National Highways (NHs) in the country to prevent road accidents;**
- (b) the total number of person died during the last two years due to accidents on NHs;**
- (c) whether any direction/guidelines have been issued to States and UTs regarding road safety on NHs; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) 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.

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.

i. Education:

- a. 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.**

- b. **Observance of National Road Safety Month/Week every year for spreading awareness and strengthening road safety.**
 - c. **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**
 - b. **High priority to identification and rectification of black spots (accident prone spots) on national highways.**
 - c. **Road safety has been made an integral part of road design at planning stage.**
 - d. **Ministry has delegated powers to Regional Officers of MORTH for technical approval to the detailed estimates for rectification of identified Road Accident black spots.**
 - e. **Guidelines for pedestrian facilities on National Highways for persons with disabilities have also been issued to all States / UTs.**
 - **Vehicle engineering:**
 - a. **Safety standards for automobiles have been improved.**
 - b. **Ministry has notified fitment of Speed Limiting devices on all transport vehicles.**
 - c. **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:**
 - a. **The recently passed motor vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019 provides for strict enforcement through use of technology and provides for strict penalties for ensuring strict compliance and enhancing deterrence for violation of traffic rules.**
 - b. **Issue of Guidelines for protection of Good Samaritans and draft rules as per MV (Amendment) Act, 2019 have been published.**
 - iv. **Emergency care:**
 - a. **The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019 provides for a scheme for the cashless treatment of victims of the accident during the golden hour.**

- b. The National Highways Authority of India has made provisions for ambulances at all toll plazas on the completed corridor of National Highways.**
- c. Out of above, 297 ambulances have been upgraded to Basic Life Support as per AIS-125 and upgradation for the remaining is under process.**

(b) As per the data received from police department of all States/UTs the total number of fatalities on NH in the country during the last 2 calendar years is shown in the table given below:

Year	National Highways (including Expressways)
	Persons killed
2019	53,872
2020	47,984

(c) & (d) The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has issued circular dated 20th September, 2019 regarding road safety measures on National Highways.

This Ministry and IRC has issued various Codes and Guidelines, time to time, to implement various road safety measures so as to minimize accidents on National Highways. Also, Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety, during various meetings, has issued direction to various State Governments for implementation of Road Safety measures including Engineering measures. Initiatives have also been taken on the following issues of road safety :

(i) Traffic Calming Measures (TCMs)

To identify locations/stretches/intersections where TCMs are needed and provide these measures on urgent basis as per the guidelines of IRC: 99 2018 "Guidelines for Traffic Calming Measures in Urban and Rural Areas". TCM are also to be provided on intersections/ cross roads in consultation with the State Authorities, if required.

(ii) Crash Barriers

To identify the sensitive spots/stretches (hilly roads, near water bodies etc.) and to conduct a gap analysis for the requirement of crash barriers. The works of erecting crash barrier should be executed on top priority. The crash barrier needs to be properly maintained and in case

of their damages, replacement/repairs to be carried out latest within 7 days of detection.

(iii) Repairing, rehabilitation and reconstruction of dilapidated and narrow bridges.

During various meetings, it has been directed that concerned ROs to hold the meeting with State PWD Chief Engineer, Field Engineers so as to finalize the proposal of improvement of such distressed bridges (which require immediate attention). The proposal of their rehabilitation/repair etc. may be incorporated in the Annual Plan so that the same could be taken up on priority basis to avoid any unwanted incident.

(iv) Road Safety Audit

Ministry has already issued instructions vide circular no. RW/NH-29011/11/2015-P&M(RSCE) dated 4th July, 2018 to carry out Road Safety Audit at the Design stage on all road projects. It is further, advised that Road Safety Audit of all the National Highways may be carried out and follow up action may also be taken up for implementation of the Road Safety Audit recommendations appropriately.

(v) Maintenance of National Highways

All the National Highways are to be maintained properly so as to keep them in traffic worthy condition. In case of Potholes, efforts needs to be made for their repair within stipulated time of 24-48 hrs after detection.

(vi) Reduction of fatalities on Vulnerable roads

Provide pedestrian facilities like FOBs, underpasses, footpaths etc. on vulnerable stretches / locations on National Highways as per IRC:103 - "Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities". Unauthorized median openings near abadi areas, dhabas, retail outlets etc. and unauthorized parking on National Highways are to be removed to prevent accidents and fatalities at those locations. Necessary action is to be taken keeping in view the provisions in IRC guidelines and safety of road users.

(vii) Highway Patrolling

Highways patrolling must be ensured on the stretches of the National Highways which are implemented on BOT/EPC/HAM keeping in view the provision of contract agreement. Measures should also be taken to remove any poles, obstacles, parked vehicles etc. which can be a cause of accident on NH stretches. Coordination with the traffic enforcement agencies of the State Govt. for removal of Parked vehicles

etc. on the National Highways to facilitate smooth movement of traffic must be ensured.

(viii) Safety During Construction

All the executing agencies are requested to ensure safety provisions for highways during construction. Necessary action is to be taken to ensure provision of road signages, construction of diversion roads and other requisite provisions as per NH standard 1 guidelines. IRC has already issued IRC:SP:55-2014 regarding Guidelines on Traffic Management in work zones. Safety of road users is to be ensured to avoid any unwanted incident where construction works are going on.

(ix) Black Spots

Ministry has issued circular no. RW/NH-29011/01/2019-S&R(P&B) dated 26.08.2019 regarding Rectification of Accident Black Spots. Vide this circular, short term measures may be sanctioned by the Regional Officers at their own level under the provision of contingencies of any NH work in the State concerned. Further, for the long term measures, technical approval is to be given by RO for the estimated cost upto Rs 50.0 Crore (including land acquisition cost if any). All the ROs and agencies such as PWD / NHAI / NHIDCL / BRO are requested to take necessary steps for rectification of the Accident Black Spots. Monitoring of the rectified black spots to check the effectiveness of remedial measures is also to be taken and reported to the Ministry.
