

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 499
ANSWERED ON 22ND JULY, 2021**

SYMPOSIUM ON SAFER ROADS

**499. SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:
SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU:
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:
SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV:
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:
SHRI SANJAY SADASHIVRAO MANDLIK:
SHRI RAVI KISHAN:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUSHWAHA:**

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a symposium on “safer roads/black spots and discussion on plan for rectification of black spots during next one year” was organized recently and if so, the details and outcome thereof;**
- (b) whether the Government has made any assessment to find out the percentage of road accidents occurred due to faulty designing and construction of National Highways (NHs) in the country;**
- (c) if so, the details and outcome thereof;**
- (d) whether there is any provision in the law to compound planner, designer and manufacturer of such faulty NHs and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to make such provisions in the law to check/prevent such incidents in future?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) Yes, a symposium on “Safer Roads/Black spots and discussion on plan for rectification of black spots during next One Year” was organized by Ministry of Road Transport & Highways in two sessions on 3rd & 4th February 2021 at Media Centre of Transport Bhawan, New Delhi. Around nine hundred participants attended Symposium including nine distinguished panelist representing Government, Academic Institutions and consultants.

The symposium increased the awareness of the participants on proper road signage, road safety audit, safety ranking of the roads and design aspect of junctions / expressways / hill roads etc. Participants also became aware about importance of design of roads proactively in such a way that accidents do not happen due to road engineering features and also on timely remedial actions.

Accordingly, remedial measures on 5803 identified black spots also got expedited. So far about 90% of these black spots are attended, 2923 with permanent measures and 2244 with temporary measures.

(b) and (c) Yes, Transport Research Wing (TRW) of Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) publish annual report and analysis on Road Accidents. Ministry has decided to identify National Highway locations which has shown frequent accidents/loss of human lives and defined these locations as a Black spots. Transport Research Wing (TRW) of MoRTH, receive/ collect accident data from various states, filter it and provide to MoRTH for further action of accident cause study and taking appropriate engineering measures through its various executing agencies viz. NHAI / PWD-NH Wings/ NHIDCL for rectification.

The data of 2018 indicate that about 24940 accident took place in a year on black spot locations which is about 18% of the total accidents (140843) on National Highways during 2018. Based on data furnished by TRW, action on 5803 identified black spots

started. So far about 90% of these black spots are attended, 2923 with permanent measures and 2244 with temporary measures.

(d) & (e) All National Highways are constructed as per quality standards specified in Ministry of Road Transport and Highways/ Indian Roads Congress (IRC) specifications. To ensure that the works are executed as per prescribed specifications and standards, Consultants are appointed by Ministry and its agencies for day to day supervision of the works at site. Officials of Ministry/National Highways Authority of India/National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited carries out quality checks of the works executed on random basis and deficiencies, if any, observed during such examination / inspection are brought to the notice of the Concessionaire / Contractor for corrective measures. The Authority Engineer/ Independent Engineer along with the road safety experts are also engaged for Audit & Quality check of roads to ensure road safety & its construction quality. In case of any defaults, actions against the defaulting agencies are taken as per the provisions of agreement.

However, in the Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Act, 2019, in Point No 84, Rule No. 198A, to check/prevent any faulty NHs or any incidents in future, the following law is mentioned as:

“198A. (1) Any designated authority, contractor, consultant or concessionaire responsible for the design or construction or maintenance of the safety standards of the road shall follow such design, construction and maintenance standards, as may be prescribed by the Central Government from time to time.

(2) Where failure on the part of the designated authority, contractor, consultant or concessionaire responsible under sub-section (1) to comply with standards for road design, construction and maintenance, results in death or disability, such authority or contractor or concessionaire shall be punishable with a fine which may extend to one lakh rupees and the same shall be paid to the Fund constituted under section 164B.

(3) For the purposes of sub-section (2), the court shall in particular have regard to the following matters, namely:—

(a) the characteristics of the road, and the nature and type of traffic which was reasonably expected to use it as per the design of road;

- (b) the standard of maintenance norms applicable for a road of that character and use by such traffic;***
- (c) the state of repair in which road users would have expected to find the road;***
- (d) whether the designated authority responsible for the maintenance of the road knew, or could reasonably have been expected to know, that the condition of the part of the road to which the action relates was likely to cause danger to the road users;***
- (e) whether the designated authority responsible for the maintenance of the road could not reasonably have been expected to repair that part of the road before the cause of action arose;***
- (f) whether adequate warning notices through road signs, of its condition had been displayed; and***
- (g) such other matters as may be prescribed by the Central Government.”***
