

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 5018  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.04.2022**

**DAMAGE TO EARS**

**5018 SHRI KANAKMAL KATARA :  
SHRIMATI KESHARI DEVI PATEL:**

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the loud horns of vehicles and Disc Jockey are causing damage to the ears, if so, the details thereof and specific measures taken thereon;
- (b) whether the doctors of Maulana Azad Medical College have conducted any medical study in this regard, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the use of horns and earphones are especially affecting the ears adversely and the use of earphones have also led to spike in road accidents; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a) As per the World report on hearing published by World Health Organization (WHO) in 2021, noise induced hearing damage is related to the duration and volume of exposure. The safe exposure limit is 85 decibels for maximum 8 hours a day. However, as per Rule 5 of Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000, restrictions on the use of loud speakers/public address system and sound producing instruments are mentioned. The details are available at weblink <http://dstegoa.gov.in/Noise%20rules-10-08-2017.pdf>

(b) The Maulana Azad Medical College has informed that they have not conducted any medical study in this regard.

(c) The concerned Ministry of Road Transport & Highways have informed that during the last five calendar years i.e. 2016-2020, the number of accidents happened due to use of Mobile phones, is as given in the table below:

| Year | Total number of road accidents happened due to use of Mobile phone |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2016 | 4976                                                               |
| 2017 | 8526                                                               |
| 2018 | 9039                                                               |
| 2019 | 10522                                                              |
| 2020 | 6753                                                               |

(d) Under the umbrella scheme of National Health Mission (NHM), the Government of India implements the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Deafness (NPPCD). The objectives of Programme include prevention of the avoidable hearing loss and early identification, diagnosis and treatment of ear problems responsible for hearing loss and deafness. IEC (Information, Education & Communication) material is developed and distributed in this regard for sensitizing general public on prevention of deafness under NPPCD.

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