

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2911
ANSWERED ON 12TH DECEMBER, 2024
IMPROVEMENT IN ROAD DURABILITY**

2911. SHRI VISHALDADA PRAKASHBAPU PATIL:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is true that the country experienced a 22.6 per cent rise in the number of road accidents caused by potholes on national highways in 2022;**
- (b) if so, the reasons behind the improper durability of roads and the issue of pothole-related accidents;**
- (c) whether it is true that the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is exploring the technology of a self-healing asphalt; and**
- (d) if so, the details on this innovative technology which is proposed to address the persistent issue of potholes leading to road accidents and fatalities in the country?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) and (b) Government publishes "Road Accidents in India" annually based on data received from States/ UTs. As per the data received from the States/UTs, road accidents occur due to multiple causes such as over speeding, use of mobile phone, drunken driving/consumption of alcohol and drug, driving on wrong side/ lane indiscipline, jumping red light, non-use of safety devices such as helmets and seat belts, vehicular condition, weather condition, road condition etc. Total number of road accidents caused by potholes on national highways is not available. However, the number of Road accidents on all category of roads classified according to road features under "Pot holes" category in the year 2021 and 2022 were 3,625 and 4,446, respectively.

Indian Roads Congress (IRC) formulates Standards, Guidelines, Manuals, etc. for all aspects of highway building and maintenance, including road safety. Government in Ministry of Road Transport &

Highways also issues policy circulars on road safety engineering issues pertaining to National Highways (NHs). Such Standards, Guidelines, Manuals of IRC and policy circulars are applicable and binding on all NHs.

Design and drawings prepared by the contractor/ concessionaire for NH project is vetted by Road Safety Auditor. Contractor/concessionaire prepares traffic management plan for the construction period to ensure safety of traffic and construction workers. Before issue of Completion Certificate, safety audit is carried out to ascertain the safety requirements of the projects. In the contracts, there are adequate provisions to address the lapses by either contractor/ concessionaire or authority's engineer/ independent engineer.

(c) and (d) NHA has not taken up any research work/study on self-healing asphalt.
