

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGH WAYS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2885 TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.02.2014

Road deaths and injuries

2885. SHRI N.K. SINGH

JANARDHAN WAGHMARE

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGH WAYS be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Government is aware that road deaths and injuries in the country cost at least ? 1 lakh crore per year;
- (b) if so, whether the existing road safety strategy is not effective to check/ control road accidents;
- (c) if so, whether Government proposes to seek views of the Road Safety experts to bring down road fatalities; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and other concrete steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(DR. TUSHAR A. CHAUDHARY)

(a) The Working Group on Road Accidents, Injury Prevention and Control set up by the Planning Commission in the year 2000 had assessed the social cost of road accidents in India at Rs. 55,000 crore which constituted about 3% of the Gross Domestic Product(GDP) of the country in the year 1999-2000.

(b) The Ministry has adopted a multi pronged strategy to address the issue of road safety based on four E's of Road Safety viz. (i) Education (ii) Enforcement (iii) Engineering (roads as well as vehicles) and (iv) Emergency care. As per the latest issue of "Road Accidents in India 2012" published by Transport Research Wing of this Ministry, India has been successful in reducing its road accidents from 4,99,628 in 2010 to 4,97,686 in 2011 and to 4,90,383 in 2012.

(c) & (d) The Government has constituted National Road Safety Council (NRSC) under section 215 of Motor Vehicle Act, 1988 at the national level which considers issues on road safety raised by different stakeholders from time to time. Wherever feasible, actions are initiated on the suggestions.

The Ministry has taken the following steps to minimize road accidents in the country:-

- i. The Government has already approved a National Road Safety Policy. This Policy outlines various policy measures such as promoting awareness, establishing road safety information data base, encouraging safer road infrastructure including application of intelligent transport, enforcement of safety laws etc.
- ii. The Government has constituted National Road Safety Council as the apex body to take policy decisions in matters of road safety. The Ministry has requested all States/UTs for setting up of State Road Safety Council and District Road Safety Committees.
- iii. Road safety has been made an integral part of road design at the planning stage.
- iv. Road Safety Audit of selected stretches of National Highways/Expressways.
- v. Establishment of driving training institutes.
- vi. Tightening of safety standards for vehicles like helmets, seat belts, power-steering, rear view mirror.
- vii. Publicity campaigns on road safety awareness.