

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED) : (a) No, Sir. An amendment was, however, made to the Arms Rules, 1962 on 24.1. 89 to the effect that all India licences could be issued / renewed only with the prior clearance of the Government of India. (in the Ministry of Home Affairs)

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

(d) and (e). In the light of representations received from various quarters and administrative difficulties involved, the matter was reviewed and it has been decided *inter alia* to do away with the requirement of obtaining prior clearance of the Government of India for issue renewal of All-India licences in respect of certain categories of fire-arms. This will become effective from the date necessary amendments are carried out in the Arms Rules, 1962.

Road Accidents

627. **SHRI NATHU SINGH:**
PROF. YADUNATH PANDEY:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a rise in road accidents in the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the State - wise number of persons killed and injured in those accidents during the last one year; and

(c) the details of details of instructions issued by the Union Government to the State Governments to check these accidents and the extent to which accidents have been contained as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISSH-NAN) : (a) No, Sir. As per data on road accidents reported by State Government/ U.T. Administrations the total number of road accidents that occurred during 1988 were 214854 as against 232981 during 1987. This shows a decline by 7.8% in number of road accidents.

(b) Data of road accidents pertaining to 1989 is not available as yet. State-wise number of road accidents, persons killed and injured during 1988 are as under:

<i>States/UTs</i>	<i>No. of accidents</i>	<i>Persons killed</i>	<i>Persons injured</i>
1	2	3	4
1. Andhra Pradesh	11912	4058	12836
2. Arunachal Pradesh	147	61	184
3. Assam	1861	865	2621
4. Bihar	9890	2401	5065
5. Goa	1816	154	621
6. Gujarat	19758	3004	20681
7. Haryana	3898	1587	3991
8. Himachal Pradesh	909	386	1427
9. Jammu & Kashmir	3994	563	3800
10. Karnataka	17134	3281	21461
11. Kerala	14327	1653	19346
12. Madhya Pradesh	21445	2902	18175
13. Maharashtra	31696	6237	24741

States/UTs	No. of accidents				Persons killed	Persons injured
	1	2	3	4		
14. Manipur		426	88	603		
15. Meghalaya		202	70	347		
16. Mizoram		214	104	393		
17. Nagaland		69	17	54		
18. Orissa		5069	971	6463		
19. Punjab		1482	908	1058		
20. Rajasthan		8394	2601	9417		
21. Sikkim		120	49	225		
22. Tamil Nadu		28581	5791	26285		
23. Tripura		393	103	596		
24. Uttar Pradesh		15014	7420	11870		
25. West Bengal		8780	2243	5893		

<i>States/UTs</i>	<i>No. of accidents</i>				<i>Persons killed</i>		<i>Persons injured</i>	
	1	2	3	4	3	4	3	4
26. A & N Islands		144	12	173				
27. Chandigarh		253	91	194				
28. Dadra & Nagar Haveli		88	13	85				
29. Daman & Diu		41	7	33				
30. Delhi		6716	1474	6830				
31. Laksha Deep		3	8	3				
32. Pndicherry		578	104	589				
Total :		214854	49218	206060				

(c) The Central Government, from time to time, has written to the State Governments to ensure strict control in the matter of issue of driving licences, grant of fitness certificates to vehicles etc. They have also been requested to set up driver training schools to impart training to the applicants of driving licences. The new Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 provides for driver training as a per-requisite for issuance of licence to drive transport vehicles. Provisions designed to promote road safety include fitment of safety devices in the vehicles, regulations regarding safe load-limits, maximum speed, establishing Truck Parking Complexes along Highway etc.

National Road Safety Council has also been set up to advise on formulation of road safety measures and their implementation through State agencies. The States Governments have also been asked to set up State Level Road Safety Councils.

Road Safety Weeks are organised to promote public awareness in respect of observance of road discipline. Road Safety Weeks was observed during 6-12th June, 1988 and 3rd 9th April, 1989.

[English]

Visit of External Affairs Minister to Bangladesh

628. SHRI R.N. RAKESH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he visited Bangladesh in the second week of February, 1990;

(b) if so, the nature of talks held with the Bangladesh Minister;

(c) whether any agreement was also signed during the visit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir. This visit took place from 16-18 February, 1990.

(b) The talks covered all bilateral issues and other issues of mutual interest. These talks were cordial and friendly.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Seizure of Heroin on Indo-Pak Border

629. SHRI R.N. RAKESH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Heroin worth Rs. 34 crore seized" appearing in the "Indian Express" dated 16-2-1990;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of arrests made; and

(c) the action taken by Government to stop such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On 15th Feb., 1990 an armed encounter took place between BSF and miscreants coming from Pakistan. Taking advantage of the thick foggy weather the miscreants managed to escape. On search of the area, two bags containing 34 bags of heroin weighing 1Kg. each were recovered.

(c) The Border Security Force who are guarding the Indo-Pakistan border has been strengthened, more border outposts have