

(c) The details of persons killed/injured by Redline and blue line buses are as under :

Year	Persons Killed		Persons injured	
	Redline	Blueline	Redline	Blueline
1993	260	30	830	56
1994	214	15	887	83
1995	298	14	931	33

(d) The reasons of such accidents are reckless driving, overspeeding, over crowding etc.

(e) and (f). Comparative figures of accidents involving Redline, Blueline and DTC buses are as under :

Year	No. of accidents		
	Redline	Blueline	DTC
1993	955	20	371
1994	920	62	242
1995	1029	43	169

(g) The steps being taken/proposed to be taken are given in the enclosed statement

#### STATEMENT

*Steps being taken/proposed to be taken to minimise road accidents, misbehaviour and over-charging by private buses*

1. Refresher courses/proficiency tests have been made mandatory for all drivers of public service vehicles.
2. Installation of speed governors in public transport buses
3. Action under Section 86 of M.V. Act against buses involved in accidents and/or violating permit conditions
4. Action against operators on complaints of misbehaviour and over-charging
5. Strict and rigid enforcement of traffic rules and regulations.
6. Regular special drive against rash and negligent driving, driving without driving licences, drunken driving, defective headlights, over-speeding, over-loading etc.
7. Regular protection of violators through issues of notices
8. Introduction of blinkers/signals at accident prone areas
9. More Police presence in accident prone areas
10. Special morning drives and night mobile patrolling
11. Painting of bus boxes, yellow boxes.
12. Special night checking on Highways
13. Special drive against buses, HTVs, TSR, Taxis, etc. against traffic violation

#### Central Assistance to Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council

313. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of Central (Special) assistance allocated to the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council and funds released during the last three years;

(b) whether the funds were released after receiving proper utilisation certificates; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The Government of India does not allocate Special Central assistance to the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council directly. However, the allocation and releases of the funds under Hill Areas Development Programmes are made to the Government of West Bengal annually. The Hill Areas Development Programmes in West Bengal are implemented by the Government of West Bengal. Development works implemented by the activities and the others as non-transferred activities. The Government of West Bengal releases the funds received from Government of India under Hill Areas Development Programme to those implementing agencies separately. Details of allocation and releases under Hill Areas Development Programme (HADP) during the last three years are as under :

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Allocation	Release
1993-94	20.61	20.61
1994-95	20.61	20.61 *
1995-96	22.23	22.23 **

\* This includes Rs. 10.31 crores released in 1995-96 as arrears

\*\* Includes Rs. 11.12 crores released in 1996-97 as arrears

(b) and (c) Release from year to year under HADP are made on the basis of certificate from the Government of West Bengal that the amounts already released have been placed at the disposal of the implementing agencies

#### Central Excise on Cigarettes

314. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the quantum of Central Excise Duty collected from the cigarettes of below 60 mm length after the downward revision of Excise Duty, and