

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:233

ANSWERED ON:14.03.2007

ROAD SAFETY FUND

Bhargav Shri Girdhari Lal;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether about 92000 deaths occur in India due to road accidents every year as per World Bank and WHO reports as published in the Times of India dated January 21, 2007 ;
- (b) if so, the details of the facts reported therein and the reaction of the Government there to;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to set up a National Regulatory Authority to monitor the safety arrangements;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard;
- (e) whether the Government has mooted any plan to create a road safety fund by imposing cess on oil;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and (g) the steps taken by the Government to control the road accidents?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) to (g) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (g) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 233 FOR ANSWER ON 14.3.2007 ASKED BY SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA AND SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA REGARDING ROAD SAFETY FUND.

(a)&(b) The fatalities on road are dependent on many factors such as number of vehicles on road, population, road space, speed, different traffic condition etc. In absolute term the fatalities due to road accident have been increasing. However, the number of fatalities due to road accident per 10,000 vehicles is going down, which is evident from the following data:-

Year	Number of fatalities	Number of vehicles 10,000 vehicles	Number of fatalities per 10,000 vehicles
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2001	80888	54991026	14.70
2002	84674	58924337	14.37
2003	85998	67007284	12.83
2004	92618	72717935	12.74

(c) to (f) As per directions of the Committee on Infrastructure chaired by the Prime Minister, a Committee was setup to deliberate and recommend creation of a dedicated body on Road Safety and Traffic Management under the Chairmanship of Shri S. Sundar, Sr. Fellow, The Energy Research Institute. The Committee on Infrastructure had also approved the proposal for setting up of a dedicated Road Safety Fund into which 1% of cess revenues allocated for National Highways, would be paid. Subsequently, this matter was referred to the Committee on Road Safety and Traffic Management for consideration. The Committee has submitted its report on 20-2-2007. It has recommended the setting up of a National Road Safety Board. It has also inter-alia recommended apportionment of minimum 1% of total proceeds of cess on diesel and petrol to be available for National Road Safety Fund. The Report is presently under examination in this Ministry.

(g) Even though the safety of road users is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government, this department has taken several steps to improve road safety for road users which are as under:

i) Road safety is the integral part of road design at planning stage for National Highways/Expressways.

ii) Various steps to enhance road safety such as road furniture, road markings/road signs, introduction of Highway Traffic Management System using Intelligent Transport System, enhancement of discipline among contractors during construction, road safety audit on selected stretches, have been undertaken by National Highways Authority of India.

iii) Refresher training to Heavy Motor Vehicle drivers in the unorganized sector.

iv) Involvement of NGOs for road safety activities.

v) Setting up of Model Driving Training School in the States.

vi) Publicity campaign on road safety awareness through audio-visual-print media.

vii) Conferment of National Award for voluntary organizations/individual for outstanding work in the field of road safety.

viii) Tightening of safety standards of vehicles like Seat Belts, Power-steering, rear view Mirror etc.

ix) Provision of cranes and ambulances to various State Governments/NGOs under National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme. National Highways Authority of India also provides ambulances at a distance of 50 Km. on each of its completed stretches of National Highways under its Operation & Maintenance contracts.

x) Widening and improvements of National Highways from 2 lanes to 4 lanes and 4 lanes to 6 lanes etc.