

Road Safety in India – Status and Challenges

Importance of Road Safety

- Road accidents - a serious public health problem.
- Problem much more serious in India : over 5 lakh road accidents in 2015.
- Ensuring road safety, priority area for GOI.
- India a signatory to Brasilia Declaration :
- Committed to reduce the number of road accidents and fatalities by 50 per cent by 2020.
- Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) nodal agency for road safety.

Road safety challenges in India

- Increased motorization/urbanization/migration
India faces severe road congestion in most areas.
- CAGR of motor vehicles over 10%; growth in road network only 4% causing congestion – impacting road safety.
- Road safety holistic issue – involving roads, motor vehicles and human beings.
- Needs coordination between different stakeholders.
- In a federal set up much depends on efforts of States to mobilise data on road accidents.

Severe Impact of road accidents

- 2015 data reveals 54% of road accident deaths in age group 15-34.
- Deaths and injuries place heavy burden on economy; household incomes.
- Strain the health, insurance and legal systems.
- Large number of persons lose jobs after road accident injuries.
- Families driven deeper into poverty by loss of the bread earner or by expenses on prolonged treatment of injuries.
- Estimated socio-economic cost of road accidents was 3 per cent of GDP- (Estimated by Planning Commission in 2009-10).

Data base on Road Accidents

- TRW collects, compiles, analyses, disseminates data on road accidents through its annual publication : **Road Accidents in India.**
- Publication compiled calendar year-wise; State-wise
- Data source is the Police Departments of States/UTs.
- Data reported in 19-item Asia Pacific Road Accident Data (APRAD) format.
- **The latest issue of 'Road Accidents in India: 2015' released in June, 2016.**
- **Revised format for 2016 report : new items on causes included :**
- **use of mobile, helmet, seat belt, road engineering defects.**

Data base on Road Accidents (Contd....)

- Data collected from Police Department on different parameters.
- **Total Number of accidents, persons killed and injured State-wise on the basis of :**
- nature of accidents for each month of the year;
- accidents classified according to spatial distribution;
- accidents classified according to roads : national highways, state highways and other roads;
- accidents classified according to type/age of vehicles;

Data base on Road Accidents (Contd....)

- accidents classified according to causes, roads condition and roads features;
- accidents classified according to age/details of drivers of vehicles involved;
- accidents classified according to manoeuvres, junctions;
- accidents classified according to responsibility of drivers and particulars of vehicle involved;
- accidents classified according to age of the person other than drivers involved; and
- accidents classified by type of licenses issued.

Findings of Road Accidents in India 2015

- During 2015 :
 - Total road accidents – 5,01,423
 - Road accident deaths - 1,46,133
 - Person injured in road accidents – 5,00,279
- In Every Hour : 57 Road Accidents take place and 17 Persons killed.
- - 28.4 per cent, 24.0 per cent and 47.6 per cent of road accidents on National Highways, State Highways and Other Roads respectively.
 - 54.1% of road accident victims are in the age group of 15 to 35 years.
 - Highest share of road accidents accounted by two wheelers (28.8 per cent) and Cars, Jeeps & Taxis (23.6 per cent)

Findings of Road Accidents in India 2015 – (Contd.....)

- Most vulnerable road users killed on road accidents - Two Wheelers (31.5%), Pedestrians (9.5%) and Bicycles (2.1%)
- 35 per cent road accident deaths on National Highways.
- Drivers fault, accounted for 77.1 per cent of total road accidents.
- Within category of driver's fault, over speeding accounts for a high share (62.2%) of road accidents.

Findings of Road Accidents in India 2015 – (Contd.....)

- 11.4 per cent of road accidents are reported as Hit and Run cases
- Traffic junctions generally accident prone – accounting for 49 per cent of total road accidents
- 13 States account for 87 per cent of total road accidents
- 13 States account for 83.6 per cent of road accident deaths
- **50 cities with million + population account for :**
- *22.1 per cent of total road accidents ;*
- *11.3 per cent of total persons killed;*
- *and 16.4 per cent of persons injured in road accidents*

Road Accident data on identified

Blackspots: -

- TRW involved in collection of data on blackspots from States/UTs.
- Blackspots identified based upon a number of accidents and fatalities occurring.
- Definition of Blackspot – a stretch of NH (500 m) or any other road with 5 or more road accidents or 10 fatalities occurring in the last 3 years.
- At present 789 blackspots identified.

Part II

Road Safety Policy, Institutional set up and Initiatives by Ministry of Road Transport & Highways

National Road Safety Policy

- Government of India has approved a National Road Safety Policy.
- Policy recognizes that road safety, a holistic issue – involving roads, motor vehicles and human beings.
- Policy statements - outline the safe system approach.
- Ministry formulated multi-pronged strategy based on 4 `E's – Education, Engineering, Enforcement, Emergency care.

National Road Safety - Policy Statements

- GOI committed to increased promotion of awareness of road safety issues.
- GOI to help States, Union Territories and local Governments to improve crash investigation, data collection, transmission and analysis.
- Ensure safer road infrastructure – review standards of safety in the road design stage.
- Ensure safer vehicles;
- Ensure safer drivers;
- Ensure safety of vulnerable road users;
- Enforcing safety laws : Increased highway patrolling.

Institutional Set up

- GOI constituted the National Road Safety Council - the apex body to take policy decisions in matters of road safety.
- The Ministry has requested all States/UTs to set up State Road Safety Council and District Road Safety Committee, and hold their meetings regularly.

Initiatives taken on road safety by Ministry

- **On basis of National Road Safety Policy following initiatives taken :**
- High priority accorded to identification and rectification of Black spots
- Road safety audit of selected National Highways taken up
- Threshold of 4-laning of National Highways reduced from 15000 to 10000 Passenger Car Units (PCUs).
- The design and construction of road facilities will take account of needs of non-motorized transport and vulnerable users.

Initiatives taken on road safety by Ministry (Contd...)

- Latest data reveals that drivers are responsible for 77% of accidents.
- Government focusing on training of drivers and better licensing systems.
- 13 Model Driver Training Institutes set up and functional.
- 10 additional institutes sanctioned.
- These Institutes provide induction training in heavy and light motor vehicles.
- In addition Ministry decided to set up 25 Regional Driving Centres
- **Efforts being made to change driver behavior.**
- Focus on problems of drunken driving, absence of seat belt use, over-speeding and use of mobiles.

Initiatives taken on road safety by Ministry (Contd...)

- **Recognizing importance of safer vehicles :**
- MoRTH sanctioned 10 model automated Inspection and Certification Centres for vehicle fitness in 10 States.
- 10 additional centres to be sanctioned.

Need for a stricter licensing Regime

- Data reveals that owners of regular licence involved in more number of road accidents (79.1%).
- This needs scientific evaluation of issue of licences.
- Automation in testing for issue of driving licence has helped in grant of licence to only deserving candidates.
- The stringent mechanism of driving licensing will help in building awareness among drivers on safe driving .
- Increase in skilled drivers on road will ensure reduction in road accident cases.

National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme

- Under the scheme, cranes and ambulances to various State Governments will be provided.
- NHAJ also provides ambulances at a distance of 50 kms. on each completed National Highway under O&M contract.
- 3 pilot projects for providing cashless treatment of road accident victims launched .
- Guidelines on Good Samaritans issued :
- To protect them from harassment, from authorities while trying to save life of road accident victims.

Thank You