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 percent 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.
• 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.
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.

• NHAI 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