

P.R. No. 453

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Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways organised a Meeting with State Transport Ministers on Road Safety at New Delhi on 31<sup>st</sup> The Honble Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Dr.C.P.Joshi presided the Meeting .In this Meeting The Honble Minister for Transport , Government of Tamil Nadu Thiru.V,Senthil Balaji ,Principal Secretary to the Government Home Department Thiru.R.Rajagopal,I.A.S., and, Transport Commissioner Thiru.Prabakar Rao I.A.S.,took part in the meeting.

The Text of the Speech delivered by Hon'ble Minister for Transport Government of Tamil Nadu Thiru.V,Senthil Balaji at the meeting of State Transport Ministers on Road Safety at New Delhi

*Anaivarukkum Vanakkam.*

**Good afternoon to all.**

At the Ourset I am Indebted to Place my gratitude at the floral feet of our Hon'ble Chief Minister *Amma* for having given me guidance and this opportunity to place before you various measures taken by our Amma Government ,for road safety and Prevention of road accidents.

Respected Hon'ble Central Minister for Road Transport and highways, other state transport ministers, Home secretaries and Commissioners of Transport Department regards to all.

*Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma* has assumed charge as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for the third time on 16.05.2011. Since then our *Amma* Government has taken various steps to ensure Road safety in Our state.

Further with forethought Hon'ble *Amma* released a unique vision 2023 document for disciplined implementation of plans and uniform growth of all sectors in which *Amma* allocated Rs.65000/- crore for Transport Department infrastructure Development..

Under the visionary guidance of our Hon'ble Chief Minister. Keeping in mind the People's welfare, latest available technologies have been put into use to prevent accidents and reduce loss of lives.

As per Our Hon'ble Chief Minister's Guidance state and District Road safety Councils have been constituted in Our state for taking various measures needed to promote Road Safety.

Our *Amma* Government have also Constituted Road safety fund to Finance Road activities. During 2012-2013 a sum of Rs.65 Crore have been allocated for this purpose.

In order to pay Special attention to reduce road accident and to save Precious human lives *Dr.Puratchi thalaivi Amma* Government has taken very Effective Preventive measures Viz., Improving quality of driving Schools and refresher courses to drivers. The highlighting point is introduction of Road safety lesson in the school curriculum.

Observance of Road safety week during first week of January every year. Inter departmental teams to analyze the causes of accidents.

Our Hon'ble Chief Minister Amma always keeps in mind the welfare of the future Generations i.e., The Students Community, has introduced special schemes for schools and colleges viz.,

Painting of school/ college vehicles in yellow colour.

Formation of a committee under the Chairmanship of District Revenue Officer to devise the precautionary Plans/ measures for school/college vehicles.

Instructions to ensure vehicles are following the rules and regulations while issuing the fitness certificate. Auto rickshaw should not carry more than 5 children.

Dr. Puratchi thalavi Amma Government has allocated a sum of Rs. 12.80 Crore for formation of speed breakers. Signage cautionary boards and lighting facilities at the junction points of district and state Highway roads wherever it meets the national highways.

Amma Government ordered one day refresher course training mandatory before renewal of driving license of heavy vehicles.

Having compassionate heart towards road users and to give first aid to the accident victims within the golden hour Dr. Puratchi thalaivi Amma Government from 2002-2003 established EARC (Emergency Accident Relief Centre) at a distance of 50 Kms from one another at all important state and national Highways points to arrange treatment through nearby referral Hospitals as per Patients choice

Each centre has an ambulance to response to the accident cases with essential drugs, Paramedical staff and driver available round the clock making it convenient of

public to access these centres through a toll free phone number 1073 further, for this purpose a sum of 1.63 crore has been allocated.

Further, in order to create the moral fear among the drunken drivers, stringent and disciplined enforcement measures are being taken by our transport Department and action is being taken to suspend the driving license for a period of six months in case of first instance and cancelling it in cases of repeated offences.

Under the guidance of our Hon'ble Chief Minister Amma our state Transport Department provides effective and efficient service to the people of Tamilnadu.

However, up to May 2012, 2253 accidents have taken place in the National Highways passes through our state in which 2458 persons have been killed. As more number of accidents occur in the national highways. Particularly Madurai – Salem NH7, Madurai – Trichy – Pudukottai NH, and Chennai – Bangalore NH due to lack of adequate number of pedestrian foot over bridge and road over bridges / under bridges wherever the cross important Junctions.

Hence, I request the National Highways Authority through this meeting to take appropriate measures to ensure road safety.

To make road safety effective our Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma Government allocated Rs 65 crore where as the central Government so far has not spared any funds.

The state government is providing Rs 65 crore every year for the road safety fund. I request the central government to contribute on equal amount towards road safety in the state.

To conclude, I, on my behalf and our Department behalf, once again place my heartfelt gratitude at the golden feet of our Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi thalaivi Amma, for having graciously given me this opportunity.

Thanking you all.

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