

Published Date: 10 Jul 2013

Highway accidents claim 120 lives in 2 yrs

RTI data reveals victims were mostly pedestrians and two-wheeler riders; absence of zebra crossings may be a cause

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As many as 120 people have lost their lives and 147 others got serious injuries on Pune-Sholapur, Ahmednagar and Satara highway between 2010 to 2012.

The data was revealed under Right to Information (RTI), that was filed by social activist, Qaneez Sukhrani (52), with the Pune City Traffic Police in January 15, 2013.

The RTI data also reveals that the people who lost their lives were mostly pedestrians and two-wheelers riders.

Sukhrani feels that the proverb 'survival of the fittest' does not apply for the pedestrians, as they are the most unsafe on the street inspite of being eco-friendly. Lack of pedestrian crossing and footpaths causes such accidents.

"Conditions will become more harsh for the pedestrians with the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) routes coming up in these areas. I will file an RTI inquiring whether the urban development ministry have done an safety audit for pedestrians and two-wheelers riders on all the three highways." Sukhrani said.

According to traffic department, inadequate street lighting is one of the major cause of accidents during night. Moreover, development and the rapid increase of population have brought many challenges. People needs to be aware of traffic rules.

Deputy commissioner of police (Traffic), Vishwas Pandhare said, "Pedestrians face problem as there are no specific routes for them to travel. In order to solve the issue we have started 50 new traffic signals for pedestrians so that they can cross the road without much difficulty."

Pandhare further added, "We have completed the survey of Pune- Bangalore highway and will be making changes accordingly. If the changes are successful then we will implement the same on the Satara, Sholpaur and Ahmednagar highway."

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NATURE OF MISHAPS

| | Satara Highway | Sholapur Highway | Ahmednagar Highway |
|---------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 2010 Serious | 05 | 25 | 22 |
| 2010 Minor accident | 24 | 19 | 08 |
| 2011 Serious | 02 | 22 | 24 |
| 2011 Minor accident | 22 | 07 | 14 |
| 2012 Serious | 00 | 23 | 17 |
| 2012 Minor accident | 21 | 14 | 12 |

FATAL ACCIDENTS

| | Satara Highway | Sholapur Highway | Ahmednagar Highway |
|------|----------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 2010 | 11 | 18 | 13 |
| 2011 | 12 | 13 | 15 |
| 2012 | 14 | 12 | 22 |

PEDESTRIAN DEATHS

| | Satara Highway | Sholapur Highway | Ahmednagar Highway |
|-------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 2010 Pedestrians | 06 | 07 | 08 |
| 2010 Two wheelers | 06 | 18 | 04 |
| 2011 Pedestrians | 02 | 03 | 03 |
| 2011 Two wheelers | 00 | 06 | 09 |
| 2012 Pedestrians | 06 | 03 | 10 |
| 2012 Two wheelers | 06 | 04 | 08 |

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