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PART IV-A

Rules and Orders (Other than those published in Parts I, I-A, and I-L) made
by the Government of Gujarat under the Central Acts

PORTS AND TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

Order

Sachivalaya, Gandhinagar. 22nd March, 2016.

State Road Safety Policy

No.PT/2016/19/MVA-102014-Supc-3-P.F.-KH.-WHEREAS, the State Government has constituted the State Road Safety Council under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister (Transport) to deliberate and make recommendations relating to Road Safety and reduction in the number of road accidents.

AND WHEREAS, on 11th May, 2015, a meeting of the State Road Safety Council was convened under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister (Transport) Government of Gujarat.

AND WHEREAS, council has observed that on a average one road accident take place every minute, and one fatal accident every fourth minute in the country. Road crashes cost approximately one to three percent of the country's GDP. It recognizes that road accidents have now become a major public health issue, and the victims are mainly the poor and vulnerable road users.

AND WHEREAS, the draft of State Road Safety Policy was made available to the public on the 7th January, 2016.

AND WHEREAS, objections and suggestions received from the public on the said draft have been considered by the Government of Gujarat.

NOW THEREFORE, the council has expressed deep concern on the increasing number of road accidents, injuries and fatalities in recent years and inter alia, recommended formulation of State Road Safety Policy. The State Road Safety Policy outlines the policy initiatives to be taken by the State Government at all levels to improve the road safety activities in the State. To achieve the goal of reduction in road accidents as well as fatalities by 50% by 2020, the State of Gujarat hereby declare State Road Safety Policy as under:

I. Preamble.

The Government of Gujarat recognises that road accidents have now become a major public health issue, and the victims are mainly the poor and vulnerable road users. The Government of Gujarat further recognises that as road accidents involve roads, motor vehicles and the human beings, road

safety needs to be addressed on a holistic basis. Road traffic accidents, therefore, have the potential of being one of the largest challenges to orderly human existence necessitating immediate and urgent intervention. In light of this, the Government of Gujarat, through this Road Safety Policy, states its commitment to bring about a significant reduction in mortality and morbidity resulting from road accidents.

II. Policy Statement.

In order to achieve a significant improvement in road safety, the Government of Gujarat is committed to:

(i) Strengthening Legal, Institutional and Financial Frame Work-

The Government will take appropriate measures to ensure that the required legal, institutional and financial frame work for road safety is further strengthened and a mechanism for effective coordination of various stakeholders is put in place. The Government will consider the scheme to create State Road Safety Fund with the objective of strengthening road safety and implementation of road safety measures, through loan, grant, funding through Central Government or any other sources as authorized by the Government. Government will also ensure to establish Motor Accident Claim Tribunals (MACT) in adequate numbers in respect of number of cases. A lead agency would be designated to ensure effective coordination and active and extensive participation of the Government Departments, community at large, the private sector, academia and NGOs.

(ii) Road Safety Education and Training.

The Government would increase its efforts to promote awareness about the various aspects of road safety, the social and economic implications of road accidents and what needs to be done to curb the rising menace of road accidents. This would enable and empower the different stakeholders to play a meaningful role in promoting road safety. Government will take steps to create awareness regarding road safety amongst population through education, training and publicity campaigns. Road Safety may be made the integral part of syllabus for school children and college going students. Road Safety Education should not remain a matter of words. Students must be educated in a way that bring them alive to the issues of road safety through extra curricular activities like lectures of experts, play on safety rules, quizzes, short films, slide shows, etc. Government will encourage the professionals as well as NGOs to actively participate in road safety programmes. It will cover both urban and rural areas.

(iii) Ensure Safer Road Infrastructure

The Government will take measures to review standards pertaining to safety in the design of rural and urban road network for all road users in the State with a view to achieving 'zero road accident figure'. The Government will ensure to adopt best practices in designing the safe roads. Government will ensure to incorporate "zero black spot policy" for reduction in the road accidents. A "Road Safety Design Guidelines" will be developed for use by engineers at all levels in all road sector agencies covering urban and rural roads. The Government will consider providing wayside amenities/service centres on major road network and will also encourage local authorities to ensure adequate parking facilities in city areas. Introduction of 'Traffic Calming' measures will be introduced to physically reduce the speed in vulnerable stretches, near schools/hospitals/markets/other busy community locations. The practice of Road Safety Audits will be undertaken,

(iv) Safer Vehicles

The Government will take steps to promote statutory periodic inspection as an essential check on the road-worthiness of all transport vehicles, and the quality of emissions from such vehicles. The Government will ensure to take effective steps to bring more automation in statutory periodic inspection of vehicles. Stringent measures will be taken to ensure safety features in the usage, operation and maintenance of both motorized and non-motorized vehicles in order to minimize

adverse safety and environmental effects of vehicle operation on road users (including pedestrians and bicyclists) and infrastructure.

(v) Safer Drivers

The Government will ensure to bring stringent norms in the testing system of driver licensing and training to improve the competence and capability of drivers. The infrastructure development for driver training will be strengthened further.

(vi) Safety for Vulnerable Road Users-

The design and construction of all road facilities (rural and urban) will take into consideration the needs of non-motorized transport and the vulnerable and physically challenged in an appropriate manner. The Government will seek to disseminate best 'practices' in this regard to town planners, architects, and highway and traffic engineers.

(vii) Enforcement of Traffic Laws-

The Government recognizes that enforcement has a key role in encouraging improved road users' behavior. The Government will improve the quality of traffic enforcement. The Government is committed to bring the increasing use of information technology in the enforcement. CC TV cameras will be established in city areas to ensure stricter enforcement. Appropriate steps will be taken to ensure that the enforcement agencies are adequately manned, trained and equipped to carry out their functions. The focused agencies for traffic enforcement like traffic police stations etc. will be established.

(viii) Emergency Medical Assistance to Road Accident Victims

The State Government will ensure that persons involved in road accidents get immediate benefit from speedy and effective trauma care and health management during "golden hour". The essential functions of such services would include the provision of rescue operation including pre medical care, first aid at site of accident, transportation of victim to appropriate hospital. The State Government will earnestly consider the option of the rescue using air ambulance also. Government will make a provision for cranes at reasonable distance gaps on National/State Highways for extending immediate clearance of road blockades at accident sites. Hospitals alongside the National Highways and State Highways would be adequately equipped to provide for trauma care, rehabilitation and involvement of private practitioners and hospitals in management of trauma care. Government will ensure to maintain the access roads to each emergency care hospital, motorable, and free from roadside parking or encroachments/ All commercial vehicle drivers will be trained in First Aid trauma care. Government will also take steps to ensure that compensation must be provided without unnecessary delay to accident victims of hit and run cases.

(ix) Establish a Road Safety Information Database.

The Government will establish a state level road safety information system. Since crash data is the key source of information for the planners, facilitators and researchers, Government of Gujarat will ensure for working towards development of a comprehensive database management system. Following key activities will be undertaken to improve the information system.

- Create a database to fit the requirements of Home Department, Road and Building Department, Transport Department, Health & Family Welfare Department, Urban Development Department and Research Institutions.
- All Trauma Care Centres, District Hospitals and Ambulance Services to be connected to the database.
- Interfaces to be provided with the Centralized Motor Vehicle database of the State.
- Capacity-building for in-depth accident analysis, investigation and reporting.
- GIS & GPS enablement for real-time tracking of accidents.

The Government will provide assistance to improve the quality of crash investigation and of data collection, transmission and analysis. To achieve this goal, it will seek the help and assistance of Government of India as provided in National Road Safety Policy.

(x) Road Safety Research.

The Government will encourage research on road safety by identifying priority areas and funding research in those areas adequately. Government will consider to designate a dedicated agency for crash investigation and disseminate. The Government will identify and disseminate good and disseminate practices through various means like publication, training, conferences, workshops and websites.

By order and in the name of Governor of Gujarat,

S. R. SONI,

Deputy Secretary to Government.