

Road accident fatalities increase, police dept issues safety directives

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JAIPUR: The number of road accident fatalities in Rajasthan is increasing, especially that involving two-wheeler, which accounted for 30% of total deaths in 2016, official data has revealed.

The state police department says that the main reason for road accidents deaths is due to over speeding. Official figures of the state police department show that in 2015, the number of deaths due to road accidents until October was 8,733, which increased to 8,747 during the corresponding period this year.

Concerned over the increasing number of road accidents deaths in the state, the police department has issued directives to range inspectors general of police, district superintendent of police and police commissioners, to take effective steps to curb the deaths.

A senior police official, who did not wish to be named, said chief minister Vasundhara Raje has expressed concern over the increasing number of road accident deaths during a



■ Students violate traffic rules at JLN Road on Wednesday. HT PHOTO

recent meeting of the district collectors and superintendents of police and directed them to take effective action to curb road accident fatalities.

“The main reason of road accidents is over speeding and we have asked officials to set up special check posts, deploy interceptors, speed guns and mobile patrolling for effective action against motorists breaking the speed limit,” he said.

“The other reason is over

loading of vehicles. No passenger should be allowed to sit on the roof of a vehicle, if people are found breaking the rule, the vehicles will be seized.”

The directives also include installing reflectors on tractors, bullock and camel carts, and other agricultural vehicles, he said.

Unauthorised cuts or diversions and unrestricted movement of cattle on highways too lead to road accidents, he said.

“There has been an increase by 30% in the number of deaths of two-wheeler riders this year, following which the government made helmets compulsory for both the driver and pillion rider across the state but unfortunately this is not monitored properly in the rural areas,” the official said.

He further said that chances of road accidents increase by 300% when driver is using mobile phone and stern action should be taken on people driving on the wrong side of the road. “We have asked station house officers to visit accident spots where two or more people have died and figure out the reason behind it. It should be ensured that such incident does not occur on the same spot,” he said. “Apart from these guidelines, we have also asked to ensure that a short film on road safety is shown at all movie halls or meeting halls.”

The Rajasthan cabinet on Tuesday approved the state’s first road safety policy, under which a dedicated road safety fund will be created and will get 25% of the penalty amount collected from motorists.