

SPEECH BY MR S ISWARAN, MINISTER, PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE & SECOND MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS & SECOND MINISTER FOR TRADE & INDUSTRY, AT PARLIAMENT, 14 FEBRUARY 2012, 3:07 PM AT PARLIAMENT

Question:

Dr Lim Wee Kiak: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs (a) over the last three years, how many road traffic accidents occurred in school zones; (b) how many of these accidents involved students; and (c) what additional safety measures are put in place to enhance road safety in school zones.

Answer:

In 2011, there were 16 accidents within school zones in which there was an injury or fatality. This is a decrease from 35 such accidents in 2009 and 28 such accidents in 2010. In the last three years, a total of 10 children aged 12 and below were injured in such accidents. There were no fatalities.

2 The SPS from MOE has already elaborated on what is being done by the Ministry and also the efforts by LTA in terms of enhanced school zones. I'd just augment that by talking about what Traffic Police is doing on the enforcement front.

4 On the enforcement front, the Traffic Police (TP) conducts ground patrols around school zones and the vicinity of schools. Based on feedback from schools and residents, TP enhances or steps up its enforcement from time to time, where necessary. TP will also work through the schools to issue advisory letters to parents, and errant road users will be taken to task and firmly dealt with.

5 TP also works with the LTA, schools, and the local community, to inculcate road safety awareness and road courtesy. One such initiative involves the Road Safety Community Park where children are taught basic traffic rules, and to keep a proper lookout for motorists when using a road.

6 Finally, I would like to reinforce a point made earlier, which is that road safety is indeed a shared responsibility. We seek the co-operation of parents' cooperation and all other stakeholders, including the schools and the community, so that our children are aware on how to use the roads safely.