

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES
DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1727
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.07.2014

Mechanical defects due to manufacturing aspect for car fire incidents

1727. DR. CHANDAN MITRA:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to set up an agency to investigate vehicle fires taking manufacturing aspect including serious technical and mechanical defects into consideration;
- (b) the total number of incidents of car fire and the total number of persons died due to such fires during the last three years, year-wise; and
- (c) the corrective steps taken by Government to check the increasing number of vehicle fires?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND
PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN)**

(a): No, Sir. There is no proposal under consideration to set up an agency specifically to investigate vehicle fires. However, there is provision under rule 126 of Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 (CMVRs) that every manufacturer of motor vehicles other than trailers and semi-trailers requires to submit the prototype of the vehicle to be manufactured by him for test by any of the agencies specified therein for granting a certificate as to the compliance of the provisions of the Central Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. Rule 126A of CMVRs requires the test agencies, referred to in Rule 126, to also conduct tests on vehicles drawn from the production line of the manufacturer to verify whether these vehicles conform to the provisions of rules made under Section 110 of the MV Act. Enforcement of provisions of MV Act and CMVRs comes under purview of State Governments/UTs.

(b): At present the accident data is collected under the Asia Pacific Road Accident Database (APRAD) project of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for the Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). This does not separately capture data regarding number of car fires and persons died due to such fires. Therefore, no such data is available.

(c): Constructional requirements of buses are being examined for their adequacy regarding fire protection and safe evacuation in the event of fires. The Government has sensitised the automotive manufactures on this issue. The Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) has formed a core group to formulate guidelines for their authorized dealers for informing the owners of the vehicles coming for regular service and the potential fire hazard of the unauthorized fitment of accessories and/or higher wattage bulbs used and damage caused to the wire harnesses.

The Expert Committee on Auto Fuel Vision and Policy 2025 have recommended to Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas that the flash point for BS IV diesel to be revised to 38 degree centigrade and BS V diesel to 42 degree centigrade.
