

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:607

ANSWERED ON:09.12.2013

FIRE INCIDENTS IN VOLVO BUSES

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao; Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre; Jeyadurai Shri S. R.; Karunakaran Shri P.; Kateel Shri Nalin Kumar; Paranjpe Shri Anand Prakash; Ramasubbu Shri S.; Shivanagouda Shri Shivaramagouda; Wankhede Shri Subhash Bapurao

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the recent incidents of fire in Volvo buses in which many passengers were killed;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any probe to ascertain the causes and the circumstances that led to breakout of fire in the Volvo buses and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any violation of norms by the manufacturers/users of buses has come to the notice of the Government and if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and
- (e) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to ensure safety of buses and its passengers?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SARVEY SATHYANARAYANA)

(a) & (b) As per the information received by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, there was an accident involving a Volvo bus in Andhra Pradesh on 30th October, 2013 and an accident involving a Volvo bus in Karnataka on 14th November, 2013, resulting in death of 52 persons due to burning - 45 in Andhra Pradesh and 7 in Karnataka.

(c) to (e) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has requested National Automotive Testing and R&D Infrastructure Project (NATRIP) and the Government of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka to enquire into the incidents that took place in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. A copy of the preliminary enquiry report has been received from the Transport Department of Andhra Pradesh, which points to violation of certain provisions of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has already initiated action on the preliminary enquiry report received from Andhra Pradesh Government.