

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:799

ANSWERED ON:24.11.2009

PUNISHMENT FOR OFFENDERS IN ROAD ACCIDENTS

Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to enhance the punishment for offenders involved in fatal road accidents and making such offence non-bailable;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including effectiveness of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 in context of accidents free Indian roads;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government also proposes to have a Central law governing road traffic;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (g) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MAHADEO SINGH KHANDELA)

(a) to (c) The Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 prescribes punishment for violation of traffic rules and for such acts which could lead to accident. This Ministry has proposed to enhance the penalties for various traffic offences to make them more deterrent. However, the penalty for causing fatal road accidents is governed by the Indian Penal Code and not by the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. Effectiveness of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 depends upon strict implementation of its provisions, which is the responsibility of State Governments.

(d) to (g) The Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 is a Central law to regulate motor vehicular traffic on road. It specifies provisions for ensuring discipline on road. As such, there is no need to have another Central law governing road traffic.