

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:842
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2009
HIGH SECURITY REGISTRATION PLATES
Bhagora Shri Tarachand;Dhotre Shri Sanjay Shamrao

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

- (a) whether the Government has received complaints about cartelisation by the manufacturers and distributors of High Security Registration Plates(HSRPs) in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto alongwith the remedial measures taken in this regard;
- (c) whether the several cases of vendors having forged documents in order to procure orders for the HSRPs and supplying the same at higher prices have come to light; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the culprits?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The complaint received in this Ministry alleged that the conditions of the bids of HSRP, floated by the States are being manipulated by a Cartel of three companies to grab the business. It is further alleged that the cartel is headed by a person having criminal background.

The scheme relating to fitment of HSRP on motor vehicles has to be implemented by the States/ UTs. As per the information available in this Ministry, so far, the scheme has been implemented only by the States of Meghalaya, Sikkim and Goa. None of the States/UTs have so far brought to the notice of this Ministry the involvement of any cartel in the business of HSRP. Moreover, as on date, 18 vendors have been given type approval certificate by different testing agencies. As such, the question of monopoly does not arise. The All India Private Vehicle Owners Association had also filed a Writ Petition (Civil) No. 581 of 2008 in the Supreme Court on the issue of cartelization. This petition was dismissed by the Hon'ble Court on "no merits."

In order to check the entry of persons with criminal/shady antecedents into the business of HSRP, necessary provisions in the rules have already been made by this Ministry vide notification No. S.O. 883 (E) dated 12th June, 2006.

(c) & (d) No such instances of producing forged documents by the vendors have been brought to the notice of this Ministry. Implementation of the scheme in accordance with the rules framed by the Central Government is the responsibility of the States/U.T. The States are also to select a capable vendor for this purpose. Therefore, it is the responsibility of States/UTs to verify the genuineness of the documents produced by various vendors. Similarly, it is for the States to negotiate the price of HSRP with the vendors.