

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4256

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2009

ROAD ACCIDENTS INVOLVING DIPLOMATIC VEHICLES

Dhotre Shri Sanjay Shamrao;Wankhede Shri Subhash Bapurao

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of providing suitable compensation to the families of deceased in the cases of road accidents involving Diplomatic Vehicles in NCT of Delhi; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to impress upon the Embassy concerned to make the payment of compensation where it has not been paid to the families of the deceased?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SMT. PRENEET KAUR)

(a) & (b) While privileged persons driving such vehicles enjoy immunity under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961, the same Convention also states that it is the duty of all persons enjoying such privileges and immunities to respect the laws and regulations of the receiving State. Government has advised all foreign representations regarding Indian law which makes it incumbent on every individual (including diplomats) possessing/driving/owning a motor vehicle to insure him/her against any liability that may arise from the death or bodily injury to any person caused by the use of a vehicle in a public place. It has been made clear to these representations (including all diplomatic missions) that they will ensure that their members possessing/driving/owning motor vehicles are, at all times, in possession of valid insurance policies against third party risks and also ensure that the policies are renewed regularly and under no circumstances allowed to lapse. Insurance companies are liable to pay such damages, where required.