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Title: Need to create efficient system of public transport with adequate safety standards in the country.

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI (BARRACKPUR): India is projected to have an urban population of 60 crore by 2031. This will be about 40% of our total population. Cities lack adequate infrastructure in all spheres – whether it is roads, sanitation, waste management or transport. They are also increasingly getting polluted. 13 of the world's 20 most polluted cities are in India.

One way to reduce pollution and provide infrastructure at the same time is by creating efficient system of public transport. Although this is a State issue, the Centre plays a huge role with financing and coordination.

We need to incentivise the use of public transport over cars. This will involve first making public transport facilities clean, convenient and world-class and second, discouraging private transport through taxes, parking fees and so on.

Another important issue with public transport is safety. Every day, on an average, 10-12 people die on Mumbai's rail tracks. There are similar examples from all over the country. We must increase safety standards to increase usage of public transport.

Increased public transport use will permit our cities to expand more sustainably, reduce our carbon consumption, reduce traffic and fatalities on the roads, and spur economic growth in urban areas. This is an investment that will pay off.