

[CITIES](#) » [BENGALURU](#)

Bengaluru, August 11, 2016

Will amendment to Motor Vehicles Act bring focus on child safety?

• Staff Reporter



Safety matters: The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill tabled in the Lok Sabha includes a section focusing on the safety of children.— Photo: V. Sreenivasa Murthy

×

The existing notification has to be revised as there is no classification of riders based on age: official

The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill tabled in the Lok Sabha includes a section focusing on the safety of children. One of the main points in this section includes an amendment making it compulsory for every child above the age of four to wear a helmet. In Bengaluru, it is mandatory for pillion riders to wear helmets, but there is no specific rule for children.

The Transport Department hopes that an amendment to the Motor Vehicles Act will create more awareness on the safety of children. “We will have to revise the existing notification as there is no classification of riders based on age,” said H.G. Kumar, Additional Commissioner for Transport.

Since January 2016, 10 lakh riders or pillion riders (including children) have been booked in Bengaluru for not wearing helmets. This is the second most recorded traffic violation in the city.

Availability of helmets will increase with the passing of the Bill, said Saji Cherian, Director of Operations for Savelife Foundation, a non-profit organisation that operates in the area of road safety.

“This is the first time this issue has been raised. Once the provisions are law the market will catch up, as seen in the arrival of helmets for women, which are now available everywhere after the law made helmets for pillion riders mandatory in some States,” he said.

But according to motorists, finding a helmet that will fit a child’s head is not easy. “Most of the manufacturers, who make affordable helmets, do not have models for children. We are forced to buy the cheap Rs. 100 – Rs. 200 helmets. Anything heavier, and children complain of neck pain,” said S. Manjunath, a resident of Basavangudi.

Several city doctors have cautioned parents against making their children wear helmets made for adults. “While children need to be protected with helmets, the wrong one can cause health problems or if the helmet moves it can cause cervical injuries. In other countries, there are strict standards for headgear for children that must come to India as well,” said Dr. Kiran M., senior consultant (neurosurgery), Narayana Health.

Ready reckoner

- ***Weight: A heavy helmet made for adults can lead to neck and spinal issues in children***
 - ***Certification: The desire to buy a lightweight helmet could result in the purchase of a non-standard helmet***
 - ***Fitting: The helmet must fit perfectly on the head with no free space for movement***
 - ***Removal: The child should be able to remove the helmet easily in the absence of an adult***
-
-