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Changes in Motor Vehicles Act to make helmets compulsory for kids above 4

By [Dipak K. Dash](#), TNN | Updated: Aug 10, 2016, 04.13 PM IST[Post a Comment](#)[READ MORE ON](#) » [Road transport](#) | [riders](#) | [registration](#) | [kids](#) | [car](#)

NEW DELHI: The government on Tuesday introduced amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act in Lok Sabha making it mandatory for children above 4 years to wear helmets while travelling on two-wheelers while exempting Sikhs wearing turbans from this rule.



The amendments also make it mandatory to secure a child occupant below 14 years with a safety belt or restraint system in a car. Failing to do so would attract a fine of Rs 1,000.

The amendments also make it mandatory to secure a child occupant below 14 years with a safety belt or restraint system in a [car](#). Failing to do so would attract a fine of Rs 1,000.

Considering that many drivers and pillion [riders](#) in two-wheelers wear helmets only to avoid paying fine rather than for safety, the amendment specifies that the rider has to "securely fasten" the headgear.

While most of the amendments are aimed at improving road safety by severely penalising traffic rule violators and higher penalties besides longer jail terms for repeat offenders, it proposes to do away with minimum educational qualification for commercial drivers. It also provides for issuing learner's licence online. The bill says minimum education qualification won't be required if the applicant holds a certificate from a driver training school.

Though [road transport](#) minister Nitin Gadkari said any delay in passing the bill would cost dear as India loses 400 lives everyday in road crashes, several MPs said the law is voluminous and cannot be passed in a hurry. By evening, it was decided to refer it to the standing committee.

The proposed changes empower traffic police to impound driving licence in case a driver is caught jumping traffic signal, driving under influence of alcohol or drugs, using mobile phone or driving in the wrong way. Besides imposing fine, licence would be suspended for three months and repeat offence would attract revocation of licence.

Similarly, repeat of drunk driving would attract a fine of Rs 15,000 and repeat offence of dangerous driving would attract fine of Rs 10,000 or one year in jail or both. Even a repeat offence of driving without insurance would attract Rs 4,000 in fine. Since repeat offence can be enforced only when details of past offences are available online, the bill proposes to create a central database of all drivers and vehicles, which can be accessed by an enforcement officer instantly.

Politics/Nation

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Panneerselvam will also preside over the cabinet meetings. "This arrangement has been made as per the advice of the chief minister," statement said.

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To deal with juvenile offences, the bill proposes for cancellation of vehicle registration for two years in case it is used by a juvenile driver and not allowing the offender to get driving licence before he she turns 25. These are in addition to the fine and jail term for the vehicle's owner or the juvenile's guardian. Focusing on improving connectivity , access to public transport and reducing inter-state barriers for cargo vehicles, the bill provides for empowering state and regional transport authorities to relax norms for promoting low cost last-mile connectivity and empowering marginalised and vulnerable groups to get such permits.

Recall mandatory, makers to be penalised for defective vehicles

Vehicle manufacturers in India will have no option but ensure mandatory recall of faulty vehicles that may impact the environment adversely or harm the driver or occupants.


Paving way for stringent norms on the lines of those adopted in developed countries, amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act, introduced in Lok Sabha on Tuesday , specifies the conditions for triggering such a recall by the government and for imposing penalty on the manufacturers.

At present, in the absence of any specific provision in the law, vehicle makers have been practising voluntary recall. While the bill has proposed stricter penalty and even reimbursing full cost of the vehicle to buyers or replacing the defective vehicle, it provides a life line to the companies if they inform the government about any defect in a vehicle and initiate recall proceedings voluntarily. In such cases, they shall not be liable to pay fine to the government.

The proposed amend ments mention that the Central government can direct a manufacturer to recall motor vehicles of a particular type or its variants, "if a defect in that particular type of motor vehicle may cause harm to the environment or to the driver or occupants of such motor vehicle or other road users".

It also specifies that such an order can be issued if a defect in a particular type of motor vehicle has been reported to the Central government by a percentage of owners, which the government would notify , or a testing agency.

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