

Media Interactions on Road Safety Earliest Enactment of the Motor Vehicle Amendment Bill, 2017

September, 26, 2017, Hotel Le Meridian, New Delhi



Organised by

CUTS[®]
International

Background

A Media Interface on Road Safety was organised by CUTS in Delhi at Hotel Le Meridian with regard to the Motor Vehicle Amendment Bill, 2017 on September 26, 2017. The event was an initiative to continue with the advocacy endeavours of CUTS for advocating early passage of the MVA Bill in Rajya Sabha in the upcoming winter session. The Bill is currently pending for the decision of the Select Committee, Rajya Sabha. The Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha after a debate on April 10, 2017 but it has been held up in the Rajya Sabha following the objections raised by some states. The agenda behind bringing the media on board was to sensitise them about the issue, and insisting the Parliament to pass the Bill. In the Interface, Members of Parliament (MPs) from Rajasthan and the media persons from more than 20 media houses were present.

Proceedings



George Cheriyan, Director CUTS International after welcoming the eminent guests and the participants, emphasised on the need of passage of the Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Bill, (MVA) 2017 at the earliest. He informed that while India has only 2 percent of the vehicular population of the world, however, it accounts for 10 percent of the accidents of the world. The country loses 1682 times more lives in road accidents as compared to the terrorist attacks. While discussing the data of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) of 2016, he said that 46 percent of the victims of road fatalities are in the age group of 18-35 years. This means that the young generation of the country mostly gets victimised on Indian roads.

Madhu Sudan Sharma, Senior Programme Officer presented the highlights of the Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Bill, 2017. He stressed upon the need of stricter penalties for traffic offences. In his presentation, Sharma mentioned that 89 amendments have been proposed in the MVA Bill, 2017. He also elucidated about the guidelines for the Good Samaritan Bill. Drawing the attention of audience towards major risk factors, he listed the same. These comprise: over-speeding; drink and driving; not wearing helmets and car safety belts; and not using child restraint system. He also threw light on the necessity of raising penalties in these traffic offences, and in the proposed MVA Bill, 2017.

Harish Chand Meena, MP (Lok Sabha), Dausa spoke about the significance of the Road Safety issue. He opined that passing the Bill only will not solve the purpose as there is also a need to raise awareness regarding this law. Moreover, the Bill needs to be passed in the Rajya Sabha at the earliest. However, this does not guarantee reduction in number of accidents, Meena added. He also requested the media to sensitise the public by raising awareness on Road Safety. He also added that the applicant seeking driving licence should have required minimum qualification.



D Raja, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), raised the concerns of the states, transport unions and other stakeholders in respect to MVA Bill, 2017 and said that the Bill has to be inclusive in nature.



Nalin Sinha, Consultant, Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP)/Global Health Action Incubator (GHAI) highlighted the causes of the road fatalities in India. He said that the maximum number of accidents occur in the country due to over-speeding followed by overtaking. Elucidating about the fatality rate, he pointed out that globally, fatalities occur mostly in low income countries.

Portraying India's scenario in Road Safety he revealed that 12 percent of fatalities occur due to road accidents. He also outlined the key risk factors of road accidents like: driving with high speed; drunk and driving; not using seat belts and helmets; and using cellphones while driving. He also commented that if the driving speed is controlled, accidents can be prevented to a great extent.

Varsha Pradhan, who survived in a severe car crash, through her presentation, shared the traumatic experience of losing one of her friends in the accident. She also stressed on the significance of wearing seat belts and the need of using child restraint system. Varsha strongly urged the audience to wear seat belts.

Media Interactions on Road Safety

Earliest Enactment of the Motor Vehicle Amendment Bill, 2017

September, 26, 2017

Time	Programme	Guests/Resource Persons
10:30 AM 11:00AM	Arrival, Registration of Delegates & Tea	
11:00 AM 1:30 PM	Welcome and Opening Address	George Cheriyan Director CUTS International
	Key Highlights of MVA Bill, 2017	Madhu Sudan Sharma Senior Programme Coordinator CUTS International
	Key Highlights of Road Safety in India	Nalin Sinha Consultant Global Health Advocacy Incubator New Delhi
	Special Address	Harish Chandra Meena Hon'ble MP Lok Sabha, Dausa, Rajasthan D Raja Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha)
	Presentation by Car Crash Survivor	Dr Varsha Pradhan, Ph.D
	Summing up and Vote of Thanks	Deepak Saxena Assistant Director CUTS International
1:30 PM	Lunch and Departure	

List of Participants
Media Interface on Road Safety
New Delhi, September 26, 2017

S. No.	Name	Address
1	Dr Varsha Pradhan	A-21, Summit Apartments, Gurgaron
2	Harish Meena	MP, Rajasthan
3	Sanjay Evngen	Deshabhimani, V.P. House
4	Steephan Mathew	Mathrabhumi News
5	Aiswarya Rajender	Asiant News
6	Rebin Gjralan	Mathrabhumi News
7	Waseeni Zardi	Asiant News
8	Jagdish Singh	60, Janpath, New Delhi
9	Md. Fateh	RSTV
10	Kumar Pankaj	Rajasthan Patrika
11	Swlersbay K.	Mathrabhumi
12	Maunni Das	Delhi
13	Dipak	Delhi
14	Joe Jacob	Malayama Manorma
15	Nalin Sinha	GRAI
16	Deepak Saxena	CUTS, Jaipur
17	Jeetali Agnani	CUTS, Jaipur
18	George Cheriyan	CUTS, Jaipur
19	Vijay Singh	CUTS, Delhi
20	Ram Sharan	CUTS, Delhi

Media Coverage

MPs, experts for early passage of Motor Vehicles Bill

Posted on September 26, 2017

New Delhi 📍, Sep 26 (IANS) Experts and MPs on Tuesday called for early enactment of the Motor Vehicles Amendment Bill, a decision pending with the Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha.

Emphasising on road safety standards in the country, Dausa MP Harish Chandra Meena said the bill should be passed at the earliest by the Upper House, a statement said. The bill has been passed by the Lok Sabha.

The bill aims to address road safety issues by introducing provisions for stricter penalties for traffic offences, modern and IT-enabled enforcement and protection of good samaritans who rescue road accident victims.

Merely passing the bill would not solve the purpose as there should be awareness about the laws as well, Meena said at a Media Interface on Road Safety organised by CUTS International, a consumer organization.

"People should realise the importance of their life and follow all the traffic rules," the statement quoted Meena as saying.

He said the government 📍 as well as public stakeholders should fulfil their duties towards road safety.

Rajya Sabha member D. Raja raised concerns of the states, transport unions and other stake holders in respect of the Motor Vehicles Bill and said it had to be inclusive in nature.

CUTS International Director George Cheriyan said India had only 2 per cent population of the world but it accounted for 10 per cent of road accidents.

He said the vehicle population was increasing at 6 per cent per year but road connectivity was rising at only 0.5 per cent per year.

Nalin Sinha, Consultant at Global Road Safety Incubator, said the main cause of road accidents in the country was speeding followed by over-loading.

Road accident victim Varsha Pradhan, who survived a severe car crash 📍 in which she lost her friend, shared her traumatic experience and urged everyone to wear seat belts.

...IANS

Parliamentarians, others for early passage of Motor Bill

Sep 26, 2017 07:28 PM IST | PTI

<http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/trends/current-affairs-trends/parliamentarians-others-for-early-passage-of-motor-bill-2398419.html>

MPs, experts for early passage of Motor Vehicles Bill

IANS | New Delhi Sep 26, 2017 08:30 PM IST

http://wap.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/mps-experts-for-early-passage-of-motor-vehicles-bill-117092601164_1.html

Experts call for changes in Motor Vehicle Bill, say States need to be given more powers

Business Line, September 26, 2017 23:03 IST | Our Bureau

<http://m.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/parliamentarians-experts-for-early-passage-of-motor-bill-2017/article9874267.ece>

The Bill which penalises heavily on traffic violation is going to pass soon: Harish Chandra Meena, MP and Member PSC, on Road Safety, Govt. of India

<http://epaper.patrika.com/1373219/Rajasthan-Patrika-Jaipur/Rajasthan-Patrika-Jaipur#page/2/2>

Parliamentarians, others for early passage of Motor Bill

Financial Express: Sep 26, 2017 07:28 PM IST

<http://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/parliamentarians-others-for-early-passage-of-motor-bill/871858/>

Parliamentarians, others for early passage of Motor Bill

India.com: Sep 26, 2017 07:28 PM IST

<http://www.india.com/news/agencies/parliamentarians-others-for-early-passage-of-motor-bill-2499357/>

Parliamentarians, others for early passage of Motor Bill

Indian Express: Published: 26th September 2017 07:04 PM

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/business/2017/sep/26/parliamentarians-others-for-early-passage-of-motor-bill-1663048.html>

MPs, experts for early passage of Motor Vehicles Bill

Punjab Update, Sept. 26

<https://www.punjabupdate.com/2017/09/26/mps-experts-for-early-passage-of-motor-vehicles-bill.html>