

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 1226**  
ANSWERED ON - 30/07/2025

**HEALTH HAZARDS ON THE MUMBAI-PUNE EXPRESSWAY**

1226. SHRI MILIND MURLI DEORA:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the recent IIT-Bombay study indicating dangerously high levels of carcinogenic pollutants from vehicle emissions on the Mumbai-Pune Expressway, especially near Kamshet tunnel;
- (b) if so, whether any assessment has been undertaken by Ministry to evaluate public health risks along major expressways in country;
- (c) steps being taken or proposed by Government to reduce harmful vehicular emissions on high-traffic corridors like Mumbai-Pune Expressway; and
- (d) whether Government plan to implement stricter emission standards, mandate cleaner fuels, or develop green corridors to mitigate such health and environmental risks?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) & (b) The Government in the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways is responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways (NHs) across the country. The Mumbai–Pune Expressway is a State Expressway developed and maintained by the Government of Maharashtra. No such assessment has been undertaken by the Central Government in this regard.

(c) & (d) The Government has taken the following key initiatives to reduce harmful vehicular emissions:

- (i) Notified Bharat Stage (BS) VI Emission limits vide G.S.R 889 dated 16th September, 2016 to reduce pollutants from motor vehicles and leapfrogged BS IV to BS VI.
- (ii) Notified E20 as a Mono fuel vide G.S.R 27 (E), dated 5th January, 2024 for all categories of vehicles.
- (iii) Notified Hydrogen as a fuel vide GSR 885(E) dated 16th December, 2022 for ICE BS-IV vehicles.
- (iv) Notified the Vehicle Scrapping Policy vide G.S.R 720 dated 5th October, 2021 to phase out older, unfit polluting vehicles under the framework of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, and Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989.

- (v) Mandated the fitment of FASTag to all M and N category vehicles vide G.S.R 1361 dated 2nd November, 2017 to reduce idling time at toll plazas, reducing fuel consumption and emissions.
- (vi) Notification issued vide S.O. 5333(E) dated the 18th October, 2018 to grant exemption from the requirements of permit to the battery-operated transport vehicles.
- (vii) Notification issued vide G.S.R. 525(E) dated the 2nd August, 2021 to grant exemption of Battery Operated Vehicles from payment of fees for the purpose of issue or renewal of registration certificate and assignment of new registration mark.
- (viii) Notification issued vide G.S.R. 302(E) dated the 18th April, 2023 to grant All India Tourist Permit for battery-operated vehicles without payment of permit fee.
- (ix) Notification issued vide G.S.R. 167(E) dated the 1st March, 2019 to facilitate retrofitment of a hybrid electric system or an electric kit to vehicles.
- (x) Notification issued vide G.S.R. 749(E) dated the 7th August, 2018 enabling registration mark of Battery Operated Vehicles in Yellow colour on Green background for the transport vehicles and for all other cases, in White colour on Green background.
- (xi) Further, an advisory dated 12th August 2020 has been issued to all States and UTs regarding the sale and registration of two-wheeled Electric Vehicles without batteries.

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