

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 2046
ANSWERED ON - 06/08/2025

SCHOOL ZONE SAFETY STANDARDS

2046. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA:
SHRI K.R. SURESH REDDY:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are currently no uniform regulatory provisions in place across the country for ensuring the safety and regulation of school transportation, including the condition of vehicles, driver qualifications and passenger limits; and

(b) whether Government intends to formulate any national policy to establish comprehensive school zone safety standards, including safe school transport guidelines, speed limits near school zones, installation of signage, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) & (b) The Government has prescribed uniform provisions for school buses with respect to its construction in Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 which are as under:

(i) G.S.R. 589(E) dated 16-09-2005 prescribes specifications for school buses as per Automotive Industry Standard (AIS-063).

AIS-063 is applicable for all school buses with a seating capacity of 13 passengers and above excluding driver. The provisions in the standard are over and above the requirements laid for buses in "AIS-052 Code of Practice for Bus Body Design and Approval.

AIS-063 also specifies requirements such as uniform colour of school buses, insignia design and location, emergency exits, seat design and layout, seating capacity, stopping signal, etc.

(ii) G.S.R. 246(E), dated 29-03-2019 notified provisions for Fire Detection and Alarm Systems and Fire suppression systems with effect from 1st April 2019 and 1st April 2020 respectively.

(iii) G.S.R. 337(E) dated 28-04-2023 notified fire protection systems in occupant compartment in school buses which was implemented with effect from 1st October 2023.

(iv) G.S.R. 290(E), dated 15-04-2015 prescribes a speed limit of 60 km/h for all school buses.

(v) Fitness test of school buses are carried out as per Rule 62 of Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989.

2. As per Section 3 of Motor Vehicle Act, 1988, no person shall drive a motor vehicle in any public place unless he holds an effective driving licence issued on the basis of eligibility conditions and driving tests authorising him to drive the vehicle.

3. The first schedule of the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988, prescribes the signage to be used for indicating a school ahead.

4. The enforcement of provisions regarding the use of school buses comes under the purview of concerned State/UT.
