GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2774 ANSWERED ON 18/08/2025

PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE IN CHANDIGARH

2774. SHRI SATNAM SINGH SANDHU:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the measures being taken to improve public transport infrastructure in Chandigarh to facilitate mobility for young people like bicycles and emobility vehicles;
- (b) details of steps taken by Government to ensure that young people in Punjab have access to affordable and sustainable transportation options;
- (c) whether Government is planning to launch any initiatives to promote youth involvement in development and operation of green transport solutions like electric vehicles in Chandigarh, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps through which Government is promoting road safety awareness among the youth of Chandigarh, particularly with regard to promoting responsible driving?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS (SHRI TOKHAN SAHU)

(a) to (d): Urban planning is a State subject. The respective State Governments/UTs are responsible for planning, management, development, execution and maintenance of Urban Transport system including walking, cycling and public transport. Government of India issues policy guidelines for systematic development of urban transport infrastructure and also provides financial support to such infrastructure projects through various schemes / projects.

Government of India has issued National Urban Transport Policy (NUTP), 2006 which marks a shift in focus from "moving vehicles" to "moving people" and emphasizes the importance of public transport, non-motorized transport (NMT - walking and cycling), equitable allocation of road space to address concerns of road safety and integrated land-use and transport planning.

Government of India has also issued Metro Rail Policy, 2017 for systematic planning of public transport projects including Metro Rails in order to achieve sustainable mobility. A total of 428 electric buses have been sanctioned for Chandigarh under the PM-eBus Sewa Scheme and so far a total of Rs. 11.87 Crore has been released for development of associated infrastructure.

Further, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), mission of Central Government also supports urban infrastructure development, including projects related to public transport and NMT.

Furthermore, under Smart Cities Mission (SCM) as on 31st July, 2025, Chandigarh Smart City has completed 14 projects worth Rs. 378 Cr. under Smart Mobility (including bicycle tracks and bicycle sharing systems). Further, three cities in Punjab selected under SCM, viz Amritsar, Jalandhar, and Ludhiana have also taken up 33 projects worth Rs. 534 Cr under Smart Mobility.

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India has formulated a multi-pronged strategy to address the issue of road safety based on Education, Engineering (both of roads and vehicles), Enforcement and Emergency Care. The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019 as stands implemented provides for strict penalties for ensuring compliance and enhancing deterrence for violation of traffic rules and strict enforcement through use of technology. Traffic management and enforcement is essentially in the domain of State Governments/UT Administrations. While Central Government formulates rules under the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988, the enforcement of these rules comes under the purview of State Governments/UT Administrations.

Moreover, as informed by the Punjab Government, Punjab Roadways/PUNBUS/PRTC is providing concessional travel facilities to the students of various educational institutions (Schools, Colleges, technical Colleges, ITIs and Medical Education Colleges) of Punjab through concessional/discounted bus passes in the buses of Punjab Roadways/PUNBUS.

Additionally, as informed by Chandigarh administration, under the Chandigarh Electric Vehicle Policy, financial incentives are offered across all categories of EVs – Rs. 4,000 for e-bicycles, upto Rs. 30,000 for e-two-wheelers, Rs. 30,000 for e-carts and e-autos, Rs.50,000 for L5N e-goods carriers, Rs. 80,000 for N1 category goods carriers, and Rs. 2,00,000 for commercial e-four-wheelers – to promote widespread adoption of clean mobility. 220 Km of cycle tracks have been laid to facilitate mobility through bicycle. Public bike sharing is being executed by Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh. In order to promote road safety awareness among the youth of Chandigarh, Chandigarh Traffic Police has undertaken several initiatives focused on education, community engagement and digital outreach. Under its community outreach program, Chandigarh Traffic Police has launched a Road Safety Club in Government and Private Schools of Chandigarh.

Further, to promote road safety among Chandigarh's youth, the UT Administration organized a Special Clean Energy Awareness and Training Programme through CREST in collaboration with the Global Youth Federation, Chandigarh Traffic Police, and the Indian Red Cross Society. The initiative combined road safety education with clean mobility awareness, focusing on responsible driving and eco-friendly transport.
