

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2026
ANSWERED ON-17/12/2025

SPEED LIMIT FOR ALL ROADS

2026. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA:

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

- (a) whether there is any methodology for setting up the speed limits for all roads as the road crash fatalities are on higher side;
- (b) whether there is any action taken by Government to address this issue;
- (c) whether Government has proposed to introduce any scientific guidelines that consider both vehicle type and road type when determining speed limits; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) to (d) Government in Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has published and fixed the maximum speed in respect of the class of motor vehicles, vide S.O. 1522 dated 06.04.2018 as per legal mandate under Section 112 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, as specified in the table below:

Maximum speed per hour in kilometres on roads in India					
S. No.	Class of Motor Vehicles	Expressway with Access Control	4 lane and above divided carriageway (roads with Median strips/Dividers)	Road within Municipal Limits	Other Roads
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1.	Motor vehicles used for carriage of passengers comprising not more than eight seats in addition to the driver's seat (M1 category vehicles)	120	100	70	70

2.	Motor vehicles used for carriage of passengers comprising nine or more seats in addition to the driver's seat (M2 and M3 category Vehicles)	100	90	60	60
3.	More vehicles used for carriage of goods (All N category Vehicles)	80	80	60	60
4.	Motor Cycles	80*	80	60	60
5.	Quadricycle	-	60	50	50
6.	Three wheeled vehicles	-	50	50	50
*If permitted to ply on Expressway.					

However, under Section 112(2) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, the State Government or any authority authorised in this behalf by the State Government may, if satisfied that it is necessary to restrict the speed of motor vehicles in the interest of public safety or convenience or because of the nature of any road or bridge, by notification in the Official Gazette, and by causing appropriate traffic signs to be placed or erected under Section 116 at suitable places, fix such maximum speed limits or minimum speed limits as it thinks fit for motor vehicles or any specified class or description of motor vehicles or for motor vehicles to which a trailer is attached, either generally or in a particular area or on a particular road or roads.

Design speed is used for design of geometrics of road intersection layout and various other road elements. Further, design speed is governed by the terrain classification through which a section of road passes. Speed limit is basically reduction in operating speed compared to design speed to address safety concerns of a particular location. Speed limit is enforced through speed limit signs, which are mandatory in nature and physical measures in road environment introduced to reduce speed, which are generally called traffic calming measures. Indian Road Congress (IRC) has published guidelines for traffic calming measures.
