

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2038
ANSWERED ON-17/12/2025

RISING INCIDENTS OF FIRE IN BUSES

2038. SHRI NARAIN DASS GUPTA:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact of rising number of incidents in which buses (especially long-distance sleeper coaches/ buses, cars, private operators) have caught fire while in operation;
- (b) if so, the details of incidents reported and details of damages in the last five years, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government is contemplating any systematic study into the causes of such bus fires;
- (d) whether Government has issued a revised safety code/regulation specific to buses, cars, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the specific regulatory or enforcement steps taken to reduce the risk of bus fires?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) and (b) As per information available on the Electronic Detailed Accident Report (eDAR) Portal, incidents in which buses caught fire while in operation from 01.01.2021 to 10.12.2025 is given in the table below :-

Year	State/UT	Incidents	Fatalities	Injuries
2023	DELHI	1	0	2
	MADHYA PRADESH	4	0	1
	MAHARASHTRA	4	0	8
	RAJASTHAN	1	1	0
	TAMIL NADU	1	0	1
2024	ASSAM	1	0	0
	GUJARAT	1	0	1
	HARYANA	1	10	18
	KARNATAKA	3	0	14
	MADHYA PRADESH	3	0	4
	MAHARASHTRA	2	1	0
	RAJASTHAN	3	16	49
	TAMIL NADU	3	2	3
	TELANGANA	2	2	0
2025	ANDHRA PRADESH	1	1	0
	ASSAM	1	0	0
	GUJARAT	1	0	0
	KARNATAKA	3	1	8
	MADHYA PRADESH	1	1	0
	MAHARASHTRA	3	0	27
	ODISHA	1	1	1
	RAJASTHAN	2	28	8
	TAMIL NADU	2	0	0
Total		45	64	145

In addition to the above, there was an accident involving a bus collision with a motor cycle which subsequently caught fire on 24th October, 2025 in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh resulted in 20 fatalities.

(c) to (e) The Government in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways vide G.S.R. 905(E) dated 23rd September, 2016 notified that the testing and type approval for body building of sleeper coaches shall be in accordance with AIS 119(Rev. 1) 2016. This has been amended periodically to incorporate additional safety provisions since 2017.

Some of the features / requirements are detailed as under :

- i. Two units of fire extinguishers (total capacity 10 kg) - one near driver and one in passenger compartment.
- ii. As per standard, 4 exits (1 exit for emergency door, 2 exits for hatches and 1 exit for window or glass) have been provided for buses of 12 m length. Further, one additional hatch has to be provided for buses above 12m length.
- iii. Mandatory installation of fire detection and suppression system in engine compartment and other fire-prone areas.
- iv. No separation between passenger and driver compartment for all type of buses.

Vide G.S.R 159 (E) dated 06.03.2024, Government has notified Level Playing Field between Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) and Non-OEMS Bus Body Builders for buses with seating capacity exceeding 22 passengers excluding driver with effect from 1st Sept 2025.
