

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 2040
ANSWERED ON -17/12/2025

PASSENGER SAFETY STANDARDS

2040. SHRI LAHAR SINGH SIROYA:

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

- (a) details of the mandatory passenger safety standards (including AIS-153 and fire alarm notifications) introduced by Government in the last five years for long-distance buses;
- (b) whether the Ministry is aware that fatal incidents are caused by rampant, unauthorized bus modifications (conversion/blocked exits) which violate these union safety codes, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) considering the State RTOs' purview, whether Government will issue time-bound and mandatory guidelines to State Governments for the rigorous enforcement of these central standards; and
- (d) whether the Ministry will conduct a comprehensive audit of modified sleeper buses to ensure strict compliance and prevent local administrative failure from negating Central safety measures?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) & (b) The Government in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways vide G.S.R. 287(E) dated 22nd April, 2014 has notified that on and after the 1st October, 2014, the testing and approval for body building of new models of buses with seating capacity of 13 or more passengers excluding driver shall be in accordance with AIS:052 (Revision 1)-2008, as amended from time to time, for vehicles mentioned therein. The safety provisions of AIS:052 were implemented in two phases, viz., from 1st January 2017, and in the 2nd phase on and after 1st January, 2018.

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 approval for body building of sleeper coaches shall be in accordance with AIS-119(Rev. 1):2016, as amended from time to time, for vehicles mentioned therein. The provision comes into effect from 23rd March, 2017.

Fully built buses, with a seating capacity exceeding 22 passengers excluding driver, manufactured by Original Equipment Manufacturers were required to comply with provisions like braking, Multiplexing/electronic architecture, Fire Detection Alarm (FDAS) and Fire Detection Suppression System (FDSS), etc on and after the 1st April, 2019.

The Government in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways vide G.S.R 159 (E) dated 06.03.2024, created a level playing field by extending the applicability of the provisions on Braking performance, Multiplexing, Fire detection, Fire suppression system, etc. to all Bus Body Builders w.e.f 1st Sept 2025.

(c) The Government in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has issued an advisory to all States/UTs for strict compliance with AIS:052 and AIS:119 at the time of registration and during fitness inspection as per Rule 62 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

(d) The periodic assessment of buses through fitness test comes under the purview of the concerned State/UT Government.
