

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2076
ANSWERED ON 20.12.2022

INCIDENTS OF FIRE IN ELECTRIC VEHICLES

2076. SHRI VELUSAMY P.:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES भारी उद्योग मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the electric vehicles (two wheelers and cars) caught fire and burnt and also some people died due to the faulty battery;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to prevent such incidents in future;
- (c) whether some two wheeler manufacturers after the incident have called for the vehicles and one of the companies did not take any step to call for the vehicles;
- (d) whether the Government will make any provision for compensation for the damaged vehicles and loss of life and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether due to the heavy cost of the battery, the electric vehicles purchasing is very slow and the purpose to control pollution is defeated and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether the Government will provide subsidy for the vehicles purchased from supply the manufacturers and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEAVY INDUSTRIES
(SHRI KRISHAN PAL GURJAR)

(a): Yes, sir.

(b): As per the information received from Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH), the prototypes / components of electric vehicles are tested by the test agencies notified under Rule 126 of Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, for compliance to standards notified by MoRTH.

Further, MoRTH had constituted an investigating team of independent experts from DRDO, Indian Institute of Science (IISC) Bengaluru, and Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL) Visakhapatnam to investigate into the root cause of fire and recommend remedial measures.

Ministry of Road Transport & Highways had also constituted a committee of experts to suggest formulation of safety standards for the battery and its components, BMS and related systems in electric vehicles. Based on the recommendation of the committee, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways vide S.O. 4567(E) dated 28th September, 2022 has brought amendment to the Automotive Industry Standards, AIS:156 [Specific requirements for L (a motor vehicle less than four wheels and quadricycle) category electric power train vehicles] and

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AIS:038 (Rev 2) [Specific Requirements for M Category, (a motor vehicle with at least four wheels used for carrying passenger) N Category (a motor vehicle with at least four wheels used for carrying goods) Electric Power Train Vehicles] to prescribe Technical Requirements for Traction Battery of L, M and N Category of Electric Power Train Vehicles. The said Amendments are applicable from 1st December, 2022 and some clauses of these AIS standards will be effective from 31st March, 2023.

Further, MoRTH had issued the draft notification, vide G.S.R 659(E) dated 25th August 2022, for the requirements of Conformity of Production (COP), in respect of all categories of Electric vehicles including Quadricycles, E- rickshaws, two wheelers and four wheelers.

(c): As per the information received from MoRTH, following Manufacturers after repeated persuasion by the Ministry have recalled vehicles: -

- (i) Okinawa has recalled 3215 units of vehicles on 16th April, 2022.
- (ii) Pure EV has recalled 2000 units of vehicles on 21st April, 2022.
- (iii) Ola Electric has recalled 1441 units of vehicles on 23rd April, 2022.

(d): No, Sir. There is no such proposal is under consideration in the Ministry of Heavy Industries.

(e): Yes Sir, high upfront cost of electric vehicle as compared to corresponding Internal Combustion (IC) engine vehicle is one of the reasons for slow adoption of electric vehicles in the country.

(f): Yes Sir, following three schemes have been formulated by the Ministry of Heavy Industries:

- i. Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles in India (FAME India): The Government notified Phase-II of FAME India Scheme initially for a period of five years commencing from 1st April, 2019 with a total budgetary support of Rs. 10,000 crore.
- ii. Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Automotive Sector: The Government on 15th Sep. 2021 approved the PLI Scheme for Automotive Sector with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 25,938 crores. Electric vehicles are covered under this PLI scheme.
- iii. PLI Scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC): The Government on 12th May, 2021 approved PLI Scheme for manufacturing of ACC in the country with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 18,100 crore. The scheme envisages to establish a competitive ACC battery manufacturing set up in the country for 30 GWh. Additionally, 5GWh of niche ACC technologies is also covered under the Scheme.
