

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4750  
ANSWERED ON 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2025**

**PROMOTION OF WOMEN DRIVERS IN PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

**4750. DR. BYREDDY SHABARI:**

**Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS**

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

**be pleased to state:**

**(a) whether the Government is aware that safety concerns continue to restrict women's mobility during night hours and resultantly, the number of women-driven taxis, auto-rickshaws and bike taxi services remains extremely low across the country, if so, the details thereof;**

**(b) whether the Government proposes to strengthen existing schemes or introduce new initiatives to promote women drivers in public transport as a means to improve female commuter safety, if so, the details thereof;**

**(c) the details of existing or proposed measures such as financial incentives, technical training, safety networks or dedicated ride-hailing platforms aimed at increasing women's participation as public transport drivers;**

**(d) whether the Government is considering mandating a minimum percentage of women drivers on mainstream ride-hailing platforms like Uber, Ola and Rapido and if so, the details thereof; and**

**(e) the steps taken/proposed to improve last-mile connectivity and expand access to safe, women-driven transport across cities and towns along with expected implementation timelines?**

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS**

**(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)**

**(a) to (e) Government in Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, in line with its commitment to enhancing women's safety and promoting their participation as drivers in public transport, has initiated several steps to address safety concerns and to create an enabling environment that encourages women to take up driving roles in public transport, thereby contributing to safer commuting options for women. The steps are as under :**

**1. Issued notification G.S.R. 1095(E) dated 28<sup>th</sup> November 2016, amending the Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR), 1989 by inserting Rule 125H, which mandates the installation of Vehicle Location Tracking Device (VLTD) and one or more Emergency Buttons in all public service vehicles except two wheelers, E-rickshaw and three wheelers. This was aimed at enhancing the safety of women and children in public transport.**

**2. Approved a scheme (on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2020) for implementation of "Development, Customization, Deployment and Management of State-wise vehicle tracking platform for Safety & Enforcement as per AIS 140 Specifications in States / UTs under Nirbhaya Framework" at a total estimated cost of Rs. 463.90 crore (including Central share of Rs. 332.24 Crore, as per Nirbhaya Framework).**

**The proposed system envisages enhancing the safety of women and girl children by establishing Monitoring Centers across States/UTs, which shall track all the Public Service Vehicles (PSVs)**

**that are fitted with location tracking device and emergency buttons for raising an alert in case of emergency. The Monitoring Centre will monitor the alerts and coordinate with State Emergency Response Support System (SERSS) for responding to distress calls.**

**Sanctioned proposals received from all 36 States/UTs for establishing Monitoring Centres. So far, 16 States/UTs have commissioned these centres.**

**3. Further, issued Motor Vehicles Aggregators Guidelines, 2025 on 01.07.2025 which contains following clauses related to women commuter safety :**

**i) Aggregators are required to provide special training on gender sensitivity as part of the induction training programme for all drivers.**

**ii) An aggregator shall ensure that the motor vehicles attached with on-boarded drivers are fitted with a functional Vehicle Location Tracking Device or System, compliant with AIS 140, along-with a panic button, as mandated under Rule 125H of the CMVR and connected to the control room of the aggregator with the electronic feed from vehicle location tracking device available at integrated command and control centre established by the State/ UT Government.**

**iii) The aggregator shall establish a control room with 24x7 operations and ensure that all the motor vehicles onboarded maintain an uninterrupted contact with the control room. The control room shall monitor the movements of motor vehicles and the on-boarded drivers**

**iv) Aggregator shall establish a call centre with an active telephone number and e-mail address, displayed clearly on its website and on the App, which shall be operational 24x7, providing assistance in English and the official language of the State. These**

**call centres shall be responsible for enabling the passenger and/or the driver or any other person to contact the call centre regarding issues related to the journey or the on-boarded driver etc. and ensuring redressal of the passenger grievances.**

**v) The guidelines explicitly prohibit using child lock mechanisms in aggregator vehicles (except for three-wheelers, motorcycles and buses) preventing misuse that could compromise passenger safety.**

**vi) The aggregator shall ensure the safety of the passengers especially children, women, divyangjan and compliance with the applicable law.**

**vii) Aggregator apps and websites should include features like live location-sharing, driver photo display, multilingual support, zero-tolerance policy for use of drugs or alcohol by the driver, cyber-security certification, panic/emergency alert mechanisms. These features particularly assist women passengers allowing them to share ride details in real time, validate driver identity, and receive assistance, if needed.**

**3. As per the decision taken in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chief Secretaries Conference held in January, 2023 at New Delhi, Government has requested all States/UTs to make sincere efforts to increase the number of women bus conductors and drivers in State Transport Undertaking buses, as well as in taxis, including app-based cabs.**

**4. To encourage participation of women as drivers and conductors, Association of State Road Transport Undertakings have felicitated 50 women drivers and conductors of State Road Transport Undertakings (SRTUs) on women's day on 08.03.2025 at a special felicitation event organized in New Delhi.**

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