

Shri Nitin Gadkari,
Hon'ble Union Minister, Road Transport & Highways
Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
Government of India
5th Floor, Transport Bhawan 1,
Parliament Street,
New Delhi-110001

14.2.2019

Respected Sir,

Subject: Ordinance on Road Safety

As the Minister of Road Transport and Highways, you are the most important stakeholder in Parliament on the issue of Road Safety. We, the members of the Road Safety Network (RSN), a body of groups and individuals who seek to promote road safety in India, therefore appeal for your urgent attention to the need to bring Ordinance on Road Safety in India.

You might recall that we had appealed to you on numerous occasions, including the World Day of Remembrance held on 18th November 2018, to address the issues raised by the Opposition on the matter and facilitate the passage of the MVAB (Motor Vehicles Amendment Bill, 2017) in the Rajya Sabha to ensure our country's outdated road safety laws are modernized and strengthened. However, since the Bill couldn't be passed in the Rajya Sabha, we urge the Government to address the Road Crash pandemic on an urgent basis by issuing an Ordinance as an extraordinary measure to help save lives. The Ordinance will not only serve as a bridge till the next Government is voted in but also help in putting in place an enabling framework to help save lives.

With the conclusion of the Budget session of the Parliament and the impending dissolution of the Lok Sabha ahead of General Elections, the Motor Vehicles Amendment Bill, 2017 will lapse. An Ordinance specifically on the critical road safety aspects of the Motor Vehicles Amendment Bill before the Model Code of Conduct sets in can potentially reduce the high death toll due to road crashes.

The country just observed the Road Safety Awareness Week in a robust manner. However, you would appreciate that the country requires the backing of strong laws and policies to truly save lives. We hope and urge that you would take the necessary steps on this recommendation to bring an ordinance on this very serious public concern of Road Safety.

Thanking you on behalf of the Road Safety Network,

Your sincerely,

Ashim Sanyal
COO & Secretary
Voluntary Organisation in Interest of Consumer Education (VOICE)