



To,
Shri Nitin Gadkari
Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport and Highways
Room No - 501, Transport Bhavan, 1,
Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110 011



December 20, 2019

Dear Sir,

Subject: Strengthening helmet law by bringing into force amended section 129 of MV Act

We write to you out of deep concern over the recent developments wherein the Gujarat government has announced its intention to provide exemptions to the use of helmets in urban areas.

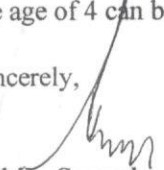
We believe that such a move, while questionable even under the existing law, will send the wrong message to other States, who may consider similar measures. The helmet law, critical to ensuring the safety of two-wheeler riders, is sadly unpopular and such exemptions are favoured by politicians hoping to get public approval.

The amended section 129 of the Motor Vehicles Act rightly removes the power of the States to provide any additional exemptions, a provision that has been and clearly continues to be abused, much to the detriment of the safety of people and the objective of the country to halve road traffic fatalities and severe injuries by 2020. Section 129 has not yet been brought in force.

We know that you are personally committed to improving the nation's road safety record and have been a strong proponent for the mandatory use of helmets.

We therefore appeal to you to immediately bring the amended section 129 of the MV Act into force to avoid similar moves by other states. For the time being the BIS standard can be prescribed for helmets (as it is currently); any changes to this, including the standards for the safety of children under the age of 4 can be easily notified subsequently.

Sincerely,


Ashim Sanyal
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On behalf of the Road Safety Network

The Road Safety Network is a national coalition of road safety organizations promoting safe roads in India



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