

## **Rationalise penalties and have more child protection provisions in the MVA Bill, 2016: CUTS recommends to PSC**

**New Delhi, October 14, 2016:** Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS) a leading consumer organisation is advocating to Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC) on Transport, Tourism and Culture and parliamentarians across party line for passage of Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill 2016 in the winter session itself.

Knowing the cruel fact that over 13 lakh people have been killed in road accidents in India in the past decade, of which 1.46 lakh people were killed in 2015 alone, this Bill with key provisions will prove to be critical in addressing this epidemic. This is a crucial step of Government of India towards achieving the target to reduce road crash fatalities by 50% by 2020.

The Bill, which was introduced in the Parliament on August 9, 2016, by Union Transport Minister Mr. Nitin Gadkari, aims to fill the gaps in the legislative framework that governs road safety in the country by amending the much older Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 (MVA). On August 16, the Bill was referred to this PSC for its review and recommendations.

PSC is deliberating upon the MVA, Bill and taking in to account the recommendations given by Groups of Ministers, Road Safety Advocates and soon will start taking suggestions from common man as well. In line of this, CUTS is reaching out most of the PSC members to discuss about the potential areas of strengthening the Bill and providing inputs and recommendations accordingly.

CUTS strongly urged the PSC to comprehensively address safety of children during commute, mandatory use of child restraint systems and ensuring appropriate headgears for children to protect millions of children.

CUTS expressed appreciation for the Government's commitment to introduce strong road safety legislation in the Parliament which is a significant step forward, while also highlighting specific policy gaps that still needed to be addressed.

*"As road safety advocate, we at CUTS welcome the introduction of the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill 2016. The Bill addresses various crucial safety elements such as improvements in driver licensing system and provisions for electronic enforcement etc. but road safety risk factors which are globally recognised, should further be strengthened in the bill. CUTS also urge the standing committee to address these gaps and submit its report at the earliest so that the Bill can be passed by the Parliament at the earliest,"* said George Cheriyan, Director, CUTS International.

CUTS also intend to make oral representation in the PSC to put forward all the above mentioned recommendations to them.

### **For more information, please contact**

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