



Standing Committee Report Summary

The National Road Safety and Traffic Management Board Bill, 2010

- The Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture (Chairperson: Shri Sitaram Yechury) tabled its 160th Report on 'The National Road Safety and Traffic Management Board Bill, 2010' on July 27, 2010. The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on May 4, 2010.
- The Committee recommended that the Bill to create the Board for road safety and traffic management needed to be made comprehensive so that all aspects of road safety are incorporated.
- According to the Sundar Committee report, the basic problem was the existence of large number of agencies at the centre and state with little coordination among them. The Bill however does not do away with the existing agencies and the role of the Board is to aid and advise the Ministry. The Committee observed that the Bill is only adding yet another institution to the existing ones. It does not empower the Board to act as a coordinator among existing bodies.
- Since the Board can make recommendations on road safety only with relation to national highways, its mandate is limited. Almost 70% of all accidents occur in roads than national highways.
- The Committee noted that the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2007 has not been passed, which would have taken care of many road safety issues. Instead another Bill has been introduced. The Committee showed its disapproval at the idea of bringing legislative proposals to the Parliament piecemeal.
- The Committee asked the government to expedite the formulation of a National Road Safety Policy.
- The Committee pointed out that the qualification required of the Chairperson of the Board has been diluted from what was recommended in the Sundar Committee.
- The Committee stated that any measure for improving road safety and traffic management would not be successful unless the menace of corruption is taken care of.
- The Committee felt that instead of looking at the examples of US and Sweden to formulate Indian road safety policy, it will be better to look at Brazil or China since they would be of greater relevance.
- The Committee recommended that the Bill be withdrawn and the government should come out with a comprehensive legislation that addresses the entire gamut of road safety.

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