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Title: Regarding death of a school-student in a bus accident in Delhi.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (BADAGARA): Sir, on the 20th of this month, in a very ghastly road accident, a 13 year old school girl got killed and four other students were seriously injured. The accident took place when the DTC bus rammed into the monstrous Shaktiman Army Truck ferrying the school children.

Here, the point that I want to bring to the attention of the august House is that the 3-tonne Shaktiman Army Truck is designed and manufactured for the purposes other than ferrying school children. It is meant for carrying Army men to other terrain. The truck has no cushioned seating arrangements to absorb shock in the event of accidents. Unlike other vehicles, which face the front and see what the driver sees and can act on reflex, in the truck passengers get only rear view. In such vehicles, passengers will collide with others even without an accident. Above all, the truck is tarpaulin covered and the children will not be in a position to see anything outside.

Instead of arranging vehicles specially designed and manufactured for civilian purposes, the Army Public School Authorities have been using Army vehicles-trucks for ferrying school children in different parts of the country, which is a misuse of Army vehicles too.

Sir, this should be stopped forthwith and school buses should be arranged. I request the Defence Ministry to give necessary directions to the concerned authorities forthwith.