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Title: Need to amend Central Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 to permit use of sun control films in vehicles.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS (ERNAKULAM): The Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport and Highways in order to have the provisions of Motor Vehicles Act compatible with the international standards on road safety has announced that the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is revisiting the Central Motor Vehicles Act 1989. One of the provisions in the Motor Vehicles Act across the globe provide for tinting of safety glass of automobiles (front, rear and side window-panes by application (pasting) of sun control films with mandated restrictions on VLT. This is because of the inherent superior features of tinting with sun control film in comparison to factory manufactured tinted glass as the application of sun control film apart from being economical protects the occupants of the car from ultra violet rays which is one of the predominant reason of skin cancer. In addition, the application of sun control film enhances the robustness of the safety glass and in the event of accident or damage to the glass prevents its broken pieces from flying indiscriminately thus protecting the passengers from grievous facial and other bodily injuries. Application of sun control film on automobile safety glass as per ARAI study enhances the fuel efficiency by at least 5% *inter alia* saving more than Rs.7000 crores worth of revenue annually.

However, due to lack of appropriate explanation of Rule 100(1), of CMV Act 1988, the Supreme Court interpreted it in a manner making the usage of sun control film on automobiles illegal thereby rendering thousands of workers jobless. Incidentally sun control film is being exported by India to more than 80 countries.

In the light of above, Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport and Highways be pleased to specify the position and stand of his Ministry regarding amendment of Rule 100(1) of CMV Act 1988 to include sun control film for tinting of safety glass with VLT standards.