

EIGHTEENTH REPORT

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(Presented to Lok Sabha on 12.2.2021)



सत्यमेव जयते

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

(2020-21)

Dr. Virendra Kumar - *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Anto Antony
3. Shri Hanuman Beniwal
4. Shri Harish Dwivedi
5. Dr. Sukanta Majumdar
6. Shri Sanjay Sadashivrao Mandlik
7. Smt. Anupriya Patel
8. Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar
9. Shri P. Ravindhranath
10. Shri Brijendra Singh
11. Shri Sushil Kumar Singh
12. Shri Manoj Tiwari
13. Shri Prabhubhai Nagarbhai Vasava
14. Shri Rajan Vichare
15. Vacant

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri T.G. Chandrasekhar - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Raju Srivastava - Director
3. Shri G.C. Dobhal - Additional Director
4. Shri Anand Kumar Hansda - Assistant Executive Officer

EIGHTEENTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Committee on Petitions, having been authorised by the Committee to present on their behalf, this Eighteenth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee to the House on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations made by the Committee on Petitions (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) in their Sixty-Fifth Report on the representation of Shri Suresh Srivastava forwarded by Shri R. K. Sinha, M.P., Rajya Sabha, regarding extensive theft of motor vehicles in Delhi.

2. The Committee considered and adopted the draft Eighteenth Report at their sitting held on 8 February, 2021.

3. The observations/recommendations of the Committee on the above matters have been included in the Report.

NEW DELHI;

DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR,
Chairperson,
Committee on Petitions.

8 February, 2021

26 Pausa, 1942 (Saka)

REPORT

ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS (SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA) IN THEIR SIXTY FIFTH REPORT ON THE REPRESENTATION OF SHRI SURESH SRIVASTAVA FORWARDED BY SHRI R.K. SINHA, M.P., RAJYA SABHA, REGARDING EXTENSIVE THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLES IN DELHI.

The Committee on Petitions (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) presented their Sixty-Fifth Report to Lok Sabha on 11.2.2019 which had dealt with the representation of Shri Suresh Srivastava forwarded by Shri R.K. Sinha, M.P., Rajya Sabha, regarding extensive theft of motor vehicles in Delhi.

2. The Committee had made certain observations/recommendations in the matter and the Ministry of Home Affairs were asked to implement the recommendations and requested to furnish their action taken replies thereon for further consideration of the Committee.

3. Action Taken Replies have since been received from the Ministry of Home Affairs in respect of all the observations/recommendations contained in the aforesaid Report. The recommendations made by the Committee and the replies furnished thereto by the Ministry of Home Affairs have been detailed in the succeeding paragraphs.

4. In paras 24 and 25 of the Report, the Committee had observed/recommended as follows :-

"The Committee are satisfied to note the achievement of the Delhi Police in regard to contain the Motor Vehicle thefts in Delhi and NCR during the year 2015-16 which are as under:—

- * *In the year 2016, as many as 5,340 cases of motor theft have been solved and a large number of Auto-Lifter Gangs busted.*
- * *Recovery of stolen vehicles has increased from 4% in 2015 to 14% in 2016.*
- * *Number of auto lifters arrested has increased from 1,570 in 2015 to 5,069 in 2016.*
- * *Number of auto-theft cases solved has increased from 1,300 in the year 2015 to 5,340 in 2016.*

- * Most of the Districts have shown a positive trend in the recovery of stolen vehicles.
- * Delhi Police is persistently trying to improve intelligence gathering, raise awareness among the citizens through advertisements/meetings, etc., to achieve the desired impact.

Notwithstanding the fact that number of innovative measures have been initiated by the Delhi Police, there is an increase in Motor Vehicle theft cases in Delhi and NCR.

The Committee observe that lack of proper coordination between the Internal Wings of Delhi Police and similar Agencies of other neighbouring States to whom the responsibility of containing this menace has been entrusted to could be the reason for increase in the Motor Vehicle theft cases in Delhi and NCR. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry of Home Affairs should formulate a foolproof strategy to curb growing incidences of Motor Vehicle thefts in Delhi and NCR in consultation with the Delhi Police and its associated Wings, viz., Anti-Auto Theft-Squad, Vigilance Team deputed at border Check Posts, Unit(s) collecting data of Auto-Lifters, Decoy Customers to trap the Auto Lifters, persons deputed for physical and online exchange of intelligence in Delhi and NCR and also with neighbouring States, Zonal Integrated Police Network (ZIPNET), etc., in the right earnest. The Committee may be apprised of the action taken in the matter."

5. The Ministry of Home Affairs, in their action taken replies, have submitted as follows:-

"As reported by Delhi Police, criminals know no boundaries, whereas, police works in a jurisdictional frame of reference. The criminals misuse the territorial jurisdiction/distinction while committing crimes and they may be active in one State, but take refuge in another. As per Delhi Police, good rapport has been established with all Agencies in sharing of intelligence and detection of crime and criminals. For a better coordination with the Police Forces of the neighbouring States, Delhi Police has reportedly enhanced the frequency of Inter-State coordination meetings from half yearly meetings to quarterly meetings. During the above meetings, the issues relating to organized crime, illegal gun running, Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN), Human Trafficking, Drug Trafficking, Motor Vehicle (MV) theft, intelligence sharing, terror, etc., are discussed and follow up action is taken. As also reported, besides the above meetings at Headquarter level, all border Districts and Ranges also hold such meetings at their level more frequently for exchange of information.

Delhi Police has further reported that a Zonal Integrated Police Network (ZIPNET) Project is already in operation between Delhi and neighbouring States of Haryana,

U.P., Punjab, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Chandigarh and Rajasthan for sharing of real time information. The main objective of the ZIPNET project is to maintain and share real time information on crime and criminals, missing persons, unidentified dead bodies, unidentified persons found, stolen/unclaimed vehicles, stolen/missing mobile phones, in an electronically secured environment. Web-based solution enables Delhi Police and neighbouring State police to share information on interstate crime and criminals on a sustained basis.

Anti-Auto Theft Squad of districts and Crime Branch are working round the clock to trap Auto Lifters and recover stolen vehicles. During the year 2018, 46,433 cases of MV theft were reported, out of which 4,891 vehicles have been recovered with the arrest of 7,015 Auto lifters."

6. In paras 26 and 27, of the Report, the Committee had observed/recommended as follows :-

"The Committee take note of the fact that the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has launched a website named 'Vahan Samanvay' on 11 March, 2014 which is an online Motor Vehicle Coordination System for the use of Police, RTOs, Insurance Companies and the general public. Under this Scheme, the data of stolen/recovered motor vehicles is updated online on real-time basis by the Police Organization. With each update, the System immediately prompts and displays vehicle details. As a result of this initiative, around 30,577 motor vehicles, across the country have been perfectly matched, thereby giving the much-needed help to various strata of information seekers. As a matter of fact, not only the RTOs use the 'Vahan Samanvay' System for verification of status of motor vehicle(s) before registration/change of ownership, etc., but also, the Insurance Companies make use of this platform before the settlement of claim(s) of the stolen vehicles.

The Committee further note that in order to browse the 'Vahan Samanvay' website of the NCRB, first of all, one has to create its login identification and generate password which not only makes it cumbersome but also time consuming for the end users. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry of Home Affairs to modify/reconfigure the 'Vahan Samanvay' website of the National Crime Records Bureau in such a way that anyone can browse this website in a hassle free manner and without any barrier such as creating a login id, generating password, etc., in order to make this website user friendly for all the stakeholders."

7. The Ministry of Home Affairs, in their action taken replies, have submitted as follows:-

"The 'Vahan Samanvay' portal originally launched by NCRB, that facilitated the search for vehicles assisting Police Officers, RTOs and Citizens required the creation of login ID with password.

In order to provide user friendly interface and hassle-free assistance to Police Officers, RTOs and Citizens etc., NCRB has launched a Citizen service at the national level to 'Generate Vehicle NOC' on 29.01.2020 that can be accessed on the web address 'digitalpoliticizenservices.gov.in' or through a link on the 'digitalpolice.gov.in'. This service does not require the user to create any login or password and can be accessed by entering the mobile number and OTP based authentication to provide the NOC for a particular vehicle. Till 31.07.2020, 8,978 users have utilized this service to generate NOCs."

8. In paras 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33, the Committee had observed/recommended as follows :-

"The Committee observe from the submissions made by the Ministry of Home Affairs that there is an increase in Motor Vehicle thefts in Delhi NCR and also the number of arrests made in such theft cases. The number of persons arrested for Motor Vehicle thefts were 3,029 in the year 2014, 1,570 in the year 2015 and 5,069 in the year 2016. However, the Conviction Rate in Motor Vehicle thefts was 45.45% and 39.40% in the year 2014 and 2015, respectively.

The Committee further note that the stolen vehicles are mostly being taken to various neighbouring cities, namely, Meerut, Sambhal, Firozabad, Badaun, Muradnagar, Ghaziabad, Aligarh and Faridabad for their disposal and/or dismantling. In Delhi, the stolen vehicles are dismantled and stored in Jawahar Nagar and Karawal Nagar. The Committee also note that some tampered vehicles are sold as genuine ones against the documents of vehicles involved in accidents and procured from the Insurance Companies up through the process of auction. Besides, many motor vehicles are being sold intact in various other States.

The Committee are satisfied to note from the submissions made by the Ministry of Home Affairs that the aspect of Motor Vehicle thefts has been taken up with the Police Authorities of the States concerned during the periodical Inter-State Co-ordination Meetings. In addition to this, the Delhi Police has also initiated the following measures to contain the menace of Motor Vehicle thefts in Delhi and NCR:—

- (i) To continuously check and verify the activities of already arrested/listed auto-lifters through all possible means to put a check on*

their activities. Efforts are also made for identification and apprehending of new Gangs.

- (ii) The Crime Pattern of MV Thefts is also studied periodically by the Police Districts, Crime Branch, etc., to make appropriate strategy to prevent the MV thefts and Action Plans, so prepared, are implemented accordingly. Entry and Exit Points are blocked at targeted places. Similarly, PCR vans are deployed at strategic points to check the MV thefts.
- (iii) Public awareness is being done through media, advertisements and display of anti-auto theft devices in association with the Companies concerned to encourage the Public, at large, for usage of such latest devices.
- (iv) Under Highway Project, CCTVs are being installed at vulnerable points with control units installed at Police Stations concerned.

The Committee also note the contributing factors spelled out by the Ministry of Home Affairs/Delhi Police which are responsible for increase in the number of reported cases of Motor Vehicle thefts in Delhi NCR, as under:—

- (i) Prompt reporting through the new System of free online registration, which is a simple and hassle-free process.
- (ii) The increasing number of vehicles beyond the carrying capacity, coupled with severe shortage of secured parking space inside the house leads to parking of vehicles on the pavements and open spaces without any Security Guard.
- (iii) Not all the vehicles may be fitted with Vehicle Tracker/Engine Immobilizer system, yet some of them may not be fitted with reliable anti-theft systems.
- (iv) The Residents' Associations may not be taking adequate security precautions such as installation of Gates, Barriers, etc., and closure of unnecessary Entry/Exit Points in the Colonies.
- (v) Auto-lifters have their specialized Gangs comprising of skilled auto-technicians who can break into the electronic security system of the vehicles. The number of such gangs may be increasing due to

economic deprivations and drug addiction. There are however cases of individual operations who are mostly deviants.

The Committee are happy to note that with a view to preventing motor vehicle thefts, the Delhi Police is regularly issuing Guidelines to the citizens regarding the safety measures, etc., through meetings of Residents' Welfare Associations, Market Welfare Associations and also by means of Advertisements. Delhi Police also organize Exhibitions of anti-auto theft devices in various residential Colonies from time to time. Delhi Police has also issued some useful tips for citizens to prevent auto thefts, as under:—

- (i) The owner or authorized driver of a car should not leave the vehicle unattended without locking the ignition and removing the keys.*
- (ii) Park the vehicle in a safe and well-lit area.*
- (iii) Close all windows and lock all the doors of the vehicle while parking.*
- (iv) Activate any anti-theft deterrence device.*
- (v) Put valuables out of sight from the full outside view to avoid thefts.*
- (vi) Should not keep license, registration or other important valuable documents in the car.*
- (vii) Residents' Associations should take measures such as installation of Gates and Barriers with Security Guards and ensure closure of unnecessary Entry/Exit Points during odd hours.*
- (viii) Residents' Associations should introduce token system to monitor the movement of vehicles entering into or going out of the Colony.*

Although the Committee laud the efforts made by Delhi Police and other Authorities concerned to contain the Motor Vehicle theft in Delhi NCR, the Committee also wish to express their concern that despite all these initiatives, there is an accretion in the Motor Vehicle theft cases in Delhi and NCR. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry of Home Affairs to persuade Delhi Police to regularly organise Awareness Programmes on the safety measures amongst the people in consultation with Residents' Welfare Association, Markets Welfare Associations and other Associations/Groups, etc., besides taking the following steps, in a more vigorous manner, on an urgent basis:—

- (i) Strengthening the existing Vigilance Mechanism at parking lots, market places and at all the Border Check Posts;
- (ii) Strengthen the Intelligence Machinery/Network of Delhi Police as well as their coordination with the Agencies concerned including the Police of neighbouring States effectively;
- (iii) Continuous and effective maintenance of CCTV cameras should not be compromised besides immediate need to reinstall the non-functional CCTV cameras and also to further increase the number of CCTV cameras at various locations.
- (iv) To liaise with the Residents' Welfare Associations, Markets Welfare Associations, Commercial Establishments, Government Agencies to install CCTV cameras, in adequate number, to cover each and every vulnerable points;
- (v) Installation of Special 360 degree or other technologically advanced Cameras at sensitive spots to trace the stolen Motor Vehicles;
- (vi) Formulation of a strategy to impress upon the Motor Vehicle Manufacturers in the country to introduce in-built safety features mandatory in the Motor Vehicles, viz., security number plates including in-built Radio Frequency chips, anti-theft devices, vehicles tracking system, immobilizers, mandatory etching of vehicle Registration Number, etc., for not only making the Motor Vehicle theft difficult but also easy to detect even by the genuine Users;
- (vii) Introduction of universal and technology driven mechanism by the Union Government to check the sale of Motor Vehicle parts, throughout the Country by unregulated Scrap Dealers/Organised Gangs and also to ensure that registration of old Motor Vehicles/change of ownership is done only after verifying that the same is not stolen from any part of the country;
- (viii) Taking up the matter with all the Department/Agencies concerned, viz., the Transport Agencies, the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, etc., for ensuring better coordination so that instances of sneaking out of stolen vehicles from Delhi to other States are contained and the stolen vehicles are recovered at the earliest;

- (ix) Besides briefing the Residents' Welfare Associations and Markets Welfare Associations, efforts under the Scheme 'Prahari' should be intensified with a view to sensitizing the security apparatus of the Residents' Welfare Associations and Markets Welfare Associations for better results; and
- (x) Taking renewed initiative for counselling of First-Time Offenders indulged in theft of Motor Vehicles at a much wider scale by co-opting the NGOs, Doctors, Academicians, etc., so that the budding minds could be motivated for becoming a law-abiding citizen."

9. The Ministry of Home Affairs, in their action taken replies, have submitted as follows:-

"As reported by Delhi Police, the awareness programs on safety measures amongst the people in consultation with Residents' Welfare Associations (RWAs)/Markets Welfare Associations (MWAs) and other associations/groups are being organized in all districts on regular basis. People are being motivated to use various security gadgets such as GPS, Gear Lock and CCTV Cameras in the locality in order to curb the MV theft.

A close watch over the Jail/bail released Auto Lifters is maintained by Delhi Police. Existing vigilance mechanism in all parking lots and markets has been strengthened in all districts. Parking owners/attendants and members of MWAs are being sensitized about safety steps on regular basis. Picket staff deployed at borders has been directed to check suspicious vehicles thoroughly and also to keep a list of stolen vehicles with them.

For a better coordination with neighboring State Police, Delhi Police organizes Inter-State Co-ordination Meetings on quarterly basis for sharing of intelligence and crime-criminal information and also for making joint action plan to check Inter-State Crime.

The CCTV cameras installed by Delhi Police at various places are being regularly monitored by them to ensure their proper functioning. Further, all these cameras are under Annual Maintenance Contract with the installing agencies i.e., ECIL etc., to ensure that the cameras installed are functional and faulty cameras are repaired/replaced immediately. Delhi Police is in the process of getting 2,727 cameras installed through ECIL under Phase-2b of CCTV project. Under the 'Safe City Project' of Delhi Police approved by Government of India under 'Nirbhaya Fund', around 10,000 cameras are proposed to be installed all over the NCT of Delhi. The

installation of CCTV Cameras under 'Safe City Project' will increase watch and demonstrative visibility of police at public places.

Under 'Nigehban Scheme', Delhi Police has surveyed all important locations of the city and has drawn a list of sensitive areas which require CCTV monitoring. Individuals, RWAs and MWAs have been requested to install CCTV cameras at the identified spots by pooling their resources. This project is a shining example of proactive community policing in the country. This year the number of CCTV cameras under this scheme has risen to 2,14,377.

As reported by Delhi Police, sensitive spots of MV theft have been identified and concerned agencies are being approached for the installation of advanced technological cameras.

General public is being sensitized by Delhi Police to install anti vehicle theft devices in their vehicles to desist criminal elements. Regular advertisements through print as well as visual media are being made in this regard.

Guidelines for scrapping of Motor Vehicles in Delhi, 2018 issued by Government of NCT of Delhi have the following provisions:-

- Scrapping procedure, Installation of (24X7) CCTV cameras at Scraping Yards, Scrapping procedure for Impounded and Abandoned (Junk) vehicles.
- Complete list of scrapped vehicles be provided to the police.
- Information about details of scrapped vehicles to the concerned Police Station and Transport Authority regularly.

Delhi Police has reported that general public is being informed about safety gadgets and modus operandi of the criminals. Procedural requirements like ZIPNET updation, WT message flash etc., are being conducted in all cases by Delhi Police. All concerned have been briefed to send the information of stolen vehicle to the concerned authority to update its record.

Prahari, a force multiplier for policing, is an initiative of Delhi Police for involving various stakeholders like guards and chowkidars in prevention of crime. It aims at promoting a feeling of ownership and camaraderie in the community to promote better police-public relations. Prahari aims at institutionalizing partnerships and cooperation between the public and private sector security providers in community policing. The objectives of the scheme are as under :-

- to equip the chowkidars and security guards with security equipment.
- to enlist the support of these stakeholders in crime prevention and detection in the area .
- to identify crime prone areas.
- to reduce property crime.
- to foster police-public relations.
- to increase community spirit.

19,041 Praharis have been enrolled under this Scheme, so far.

Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) consists of a Judicial Magistrate and two social workers (at least one woman) who has been actively involved and engaged in planning, implementing and administering measures relating to health, education or other welfare activities pertaining to children for at least seven years. The board has sole authority to deal with matters concerning children in conflict with law. This is an attempt to bring change in the nature of the inquiry and decriminalize the administration of Juvenile Justice through the presence of the two social workers. Once the crime is committed and the child is apprehended, he/she is produced before the JJB. Till the time enquiry is pending, the child is kept in an observation home, unless otherwise released as per the law. On conviction, the child is sent to the special juvenile home or place of safety.

Counseling Programmes with the help of NGOs/Psychologists are being organized in all Districts for first time offenders to motivate them for becoming decent citizens. Vocational training programs, sports activities are being organized for YUVA under PMKVY scheme so that budding mind could be segregated from criminal activities."

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Formulation and implementation of a foolproof, technology-driven and coordinated strategy to curb the menace of Motor Vehicle thefts cases in Delhi and NCR

10. Notwithstanding the fact that number of innovative measures have been initiated by the Delhi Police, the Committee had noted that there has been an increase in Motor Vehicle theft cases in Delhi and NCR. In this connection, the Committee had also observed that lack of proper coordination between the Internal Wings of Delhi Police and similar Agencies of neighbouring States to whom the responsibility of containing this menace has been entrusted to could be the main reason for increase in the Motor Vehicle theft cases in Delhi and NCR. The Committee had, therefore, desired that the Ministry of Home Affairs should formulate a fool proof strategy to curb growing incidences of Motor Vehicle thefts in Delhi and NCR in consultation with the Delhi Police and its associated Wings, viz., Anti-Auto-Theft-Squad, Vigilance Team deputed at border Check Posts, Unit(s) collecting data of Auto-Lifters, Decoy Customers to trap the Auto Lifters, persons deputed for physical and online exchange of intelligence in Delhi and NCR and also with neighboring States, Zonal Integrated Police Network (ZIPNET), etc., in the right earnest.

11. In response to the above recommendation, the Ministry of Home Affairs, in their action taken replies, have submitted that as per Delhi Police, good rapport has been established with all the Agencies in sharing of intelligence and detection of crime and criminals and for a better coordination with the Police Forces of the neighbouring States. Delhi Police has also enhanced the frequency of Inter-State coordination meetings from half yearly meetings to quarterly meetings. During the above meetings, the issues relating to organised crime, illegal gun running, Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN), Human Trafficking, Drug Trafficking, Motor Vehicle (MV) theft, intelligence sharing, terror, etc., are discussed and follow up action are

being taken. Besides the above meetings at Headquarter level, all border Districts and Ranges also hold such meetings at their level more frequently for exchange of information. The Ministry have further informed the Committee that a web-based Zonal Integrated Police Network (ZIPNET) project is already in operation between Delhi and neighbouring States of Haryana, U.P., Punjab, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Chandigarh and Rajasthan with its main objective of maintaining and sharing of real-time information on inter-state crime and criminals, missing persons, unidentified dead bodies, unidentified persons found, stolen/unclaimed vehicles, stolen/missing mobile phones, in an electronically secured environment on a sustained basis. The Ministry have also informed that Anti-Auto Theft Squad of Districts and Crime Branch are working round the clock to trap the Auto Lifters and recover stolen vehicles. During the year 2018, 46,433 cases of MV theft were reported, out of which 4,891 vehicles have been recovered with the arrest of 7,015 Auto lifters.

12. The Committee are satisfied to note that with a view to achieving better and effective coordination, Delhi Police has enhanced the frequency of Inter-State coordination meetings with the Police Forces of the neighbouring States from half yearly meetings to quarterly meetings for sharing of intelligence and detection of crime and criminals in respect of Motor Vehicle (MV) theft, besides other organized crimes. In this connection, the Committee hope and trust that the Ministry of Home Affairs would oversee and supervise that such quarterly inter-State coordination meetings are organised on a regular basis and follow up actions are taken in the right earnest so that at least, some perceptible change is visible in the form of witnessing a decreasing trend in the cases of vehicle theft in Delhi and NCR.

13. The Committee further note that a web-based interface, i.e., Zonal Integrated Police Network (ZIPNET) project which is already in operation between Delhi and

neighbouring States of Haryana, U.P., Punjab, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Chandigarh and Rajasthan with its main objective as maintaining and sharing of real-time information on inter-State crimes and criminals, such as information on stolen/unclaimed vehicles, besides other information, in an electronically secured environment on a sustained basis. In this regard, the Committee are of the view that the aspect of Motor Vehicle (MV) theft has become a perennial problem not only in Delhi but also in other cities of the country, broadly, due to the reason that the stolen vehicles could not only be easily dismantled and sold off at far off places but also these vehicles are being sold in other cities by forging the registration papers and/or tampering with the engine and chassis number. The Committee, while appreciating the efforts of Delhi Police for using ingenious methods to contain this menace, also wish to urge the Ministry of Home Affairs to explore and identify as to which all area(s)/zone(s) could be included under the ZIPNET and accordingly, work out on the modalities to enforce various out of box stringent measures to at least arrest the ever rising curve of vehicle thefts in Delhi and NCR. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Ministry of Home Affairs in this regard.

14. As per the data furnished by the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Committee note that during the year 2018, 46,433 cases of Motor Vehicle (MV) theft were reported, out of which only 4,891 vehicles have been recovered with the arrest of 7,015 Auto lifters, which is not an encouraging figure. The Committee, though can understand and acknowledge that the MV theft is such a crime, wherein, it is difficult to trace the criminal(s), would like to call upon the Ministry to identify it as a critical focus area and find out ways and means to enhance the detection and recovery rate in respect of the MV theft cases. The Committee, therefore, would like to reiterate that the Ministry of Home Affairs should take appropriate measures for formulation and effective implementation of a temper-proof, technology-driven and coordinated

strategy to curb the menace of Motor Vehicle thefts cases in Delhi and NCR. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

User Friendly and Intuitive re-designing of 'Vahan Samanvay' Website

15. The Committee, while examining the instant representation had taken note of the fact that the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) had launched a website named 'Vahan Samanvay' - *an online Motor Vehicle Coordination System for the use of Police, RTOs, Insurance Companies and the general public* on 11 March, 2014, wherein, the data of stolen/recovered motor vehicles is updated online on real-time basis by the Police Organisation. The Committee, however, had observed that in order to browse the 'Vahan Samanvay' website, first of all, one has to create its login identification and generate password which not only makes it cumbersome but also time consuming for the end users and therefore, recommended the Ministry of Home Affairs to modify/reconfigure the 'Vahan Samanvay' website of the NCRB in such a way that anyone can browse this website in a hassle-free manner and without any pre-condition of creating a login id, generating password, etc., in order to make this website user friendly for the public at large.

16. In pursuance thereto, the Ministry of Home Affairs, in their action taken replies, have submitted that in order to provide user friendly interface and hassle free assistance to Police Officers, RTOs and Citizens etc., NCRB has launched a Citizen service at the national level to 'Generate Vehicle NOC' on 29.01.2020 that can be accessed on the web address 'digitalpolicitizenservices.gov.in' or through a link on the 'digitalpolice.gov.in', which does not require the user to create any login or password and can be accessed by entering the mobile number and OTP based authentication to provide the NOC for a particular vehicle. The Ministry of Home have

also informed the Committee that till 31.07.2020, 8,978 users have utilized this service to generate NOCs.

17. The Committee are not satisfied that the Ministry of Home Affairs have not taken any consequential action to modify or reconfigure the 'Vahan Samanvay' website of the NCRB, which requires login id, password, etc., so as to make it a hassle free and barrier free interface in order to make this website user friendly for the public at large. The Ministry have rather apprised the Committee of a Citizen service facility, accessible through the web address 'digitalpolicitizenservices.gov.in' or through a link on the 'digitalpolice.gov.in' to generate NOC for a particular vehicle, which appears to be a different user interface. Moreover, the Ministry have also not come out with any functional reasons due to which the 'Vahan Samanvay' website of the NCRB could not be re-configured in tune with the suggestions made by the Committee in their earlier Report. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation that the Ministry of Home Affairs should modify/reconfigure the 'Vahan Samanvay' website of the NCRB in such a way that anyone can browse this website in a hassle free manner and without any barrier such as creating a login id, generating password, etc., in order to make this website user friendly and intuitive for all the stakeholders. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in by the Ministry of Home Affairs in the matter.

Strengthening of the existing vigilance mechanism and sensitization of general public through Awareness Programmes to curb the menace of Motor Vehicle theft

18. While applauding the efforts made by Delhi Police and other Authorities concerned to contain the Motor Vehicle theft in Delhi NCR, the Committee had expressed their concern that despite all initiatives, there is an accretion in the Motor Vehicle theft cases in Delhi and NCR and therefore, had recommend the Ministry of Home Affairs to persuade Delhi Police to regularly organise Awareness Programmes

on the safety measures amongst the people in consultation with Residents' Welfare Association, Markets Welfare Associations and other Associations/Groups, etc., besides taking the following steps, in a more vigorous manner, on an urgent basis:-

- (i) Strengthening the existing Vigilance Mechanism at parking lots, market places and at all the Border Check Posts;
- (ii) Strengthen the Intelligence Machinery/Network of Delhi Police as well as their coordination with the Agencies concerned including the Police of neighbouring States effectively;
- (iii) Continuous and effective maintenance of CCTV cameras should not be compromised besides immediate need to reinstall the non-functional CCTV cameras and also to further increase the number of CCTV cameras at various locations.
- (iv) To liaise with the Residents' Welfare Associations, Markets Welfare Associations, Commercial Establishments, Government Agencies to install CCTV cameras, in adequate number, to cover each and every vulnerable points;
- (v) Installation of Special 360 degree or other technologically advanced Cameras at sensitive spots to trace the stolen Motor Vehicles;
- (vi) Formulation of a strategy to impress upon the Motor Vehicle Manufacturers in the country to introduce in-built safety features mandatorily in the Motor Vehicles, viz., security number plates including in-built Radio Frequency chips, anti-theft devices, vehicle tracking system, immobilizers, mandatory etching of vehicle Registration Number, etc., for not only making the Motor Vehicle theft difficult but also easy to detect even by the genuine Users;
- (vii) Introduction of universal and technology driven mechanism by the Union Government to check the sale of Motor Vehicle parts, throughout the Country by unregulated Scrap Dealers/Organised Gangs and also to ensure that registration of old Motor Vehicles/change of ownership is done only after verifying that the same is not stolen from any part of the country;

- (viii) Taking up the matter with all the Department/Agencies concerned, viz., the Transport Agencies, the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, etc., for ensuring better coordination so that instances of sneaking out of stolen vehicles from Delhi to other States are contained and the stolen vehicles are recovered at the earliest;
- (ix) Besides briefing the Residents' Welfare Associations and Markets Welfare Associations, efforts under the Scheme 'Prahari' should be intensified with a view to sensitizing the security apparatus of the Residents' Welfare Associations and Markets Welfare Associations for better results; and
- (x) Taking renewed initiative for counselling of First-Time Offenders indulging in theft of Motor Vehicles at a much wider scale by co-opting the NGOs, Doctors, Academicians, etc., so that the budding minds could be motivated for becoming a law-abiding citizen.

19. Pursuant to the above recommendations, the Ministry of Home Affairs, in their action taken replies, have submitted that as reported by Delhi Police, the awareness programmes on safety measures amongst the people in consultation with Residents' Welfare Associations (RWAs)/Market Welfare Associations (MWAs) and other Associations/Groups are being organized in all Districts on regular basis. The Ministry have further submitted that people are being motivated to use various security gadgets such as GPS, Gear Lock and CCTV Cameras in the locality in order to curb the MV theft.

20. Based on the averments made by the Ministry of Home Affairs in their action taken replies, the Committee note that the following measures are being taken by the Delhi Police to curb the MV theft, besides the aforementioned steps:-

- (i) Close watch over the Jail/bail released Auto Lifters is being kept. Existing vigilance mechanism in parking lots and markets has been strengthened and parking owners/attendants and members of MWAs are being regularly sensitized about safety steps. Picket staff deployed at borders has been directed to check suspicious vehicles thoroughly and to keep a list of stolen vehicles with them.

- (ii) CCTV cameras installed at various places are being regularly monitored to ensure their proper functioning and faulty cameras are repaired/replaced immediately under Annual Maintenance Contract with the installing agencies i.e., ECIL etc. Installation of 2,727 cameras installed through ECIL under Phase-2b of CCTV project in under process. Proposal of installing around 10,000 cameras all over the NCT of Delhi under the 'Safe City Project' from 'Nirbhaya Fund'.
- (iii) Under 'Nigehban Scheme', Delhi Police has surveyed all important locations of the city and has drawn a list of sensitive areas which require CCTV monitoring. Individuals, RWAs and MWAs have been requested to install CCTV cameras at the identified spots by pooling their resources. In 2019, the number of CCTV cameras under this Scheme has risen to 2,14,377.
- (iv) Sensitive spots of MV theft have been identified and concerned agencies are being approached for the installation of advanced technological cameras.
- (v) General public is being sensitized to install anti vehicle theft devices in their vehicles. Regular advertisements through print as well as visual media are being made in this regard.
- (vi) Guidelines for scrapping of Motor Vehicles in Delhi, 2018 have been issued by the Government of NCT of Delhi.
- (vii) General public is being informed about the safety gadgets and modus operandi of the criminals. Procedural requirements like ZIPNET updation, WT message flash etc., are being conducted.
- (viii) Prahari, an initiative of Delhi Police for involving various stakeholders like guards and chowkidars in prevention of crime has been started which aims at promoting a feeling of ownership and camaraderie in the community to promote better police-public relations and cooperation. 19,041 Praharis have been enrolled under this scheme so far.
- (ix) Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) consisting of a Judicial Magistrate and two social workers (at least one woman) has been actively involved and engaged in planning, implementing and administering measures relating to health, education or other welfare activities pertaining to children conflict with law for at least seven years.
- (x) Counselling programmes with the help of NGOs/Psychologists are being organized for first time offenders to motivate them for becoming decent citizens. Vocational training programmes, sports activities are

being organized for YUVA under PMKVY Scheme so that budding mind could be segregated from criminal activities.

21. While appreciating the efforts of the Ministry of Home Affairs/Delhi Police in strengthening the measures to curb the menace of Motor Vehicle theft, the Committee hope and trust that Ministry of Home Affairs would ensure that the Delhi Police regularly organize Awareness Programmes on the preventive safety measures for the general public in consultation with Residents' Welfare Association, Markets Welfare Associations and other Associations/Groups, etc. However, in addition to the above mentioned steps, the Committee desire that the Ministry may put in their concerted efforts in taking the following steps/measures to minimise the cases of Motor Vehicle theft to a noticeable extent:-

- (i) Sensitizing the member of general public to avoid parking at unguarded and poorly-lit areas;
- (ii) Sensitizing and encouraging the vehicle owners to install security/anti-auto theft and detection devices and the details of dealers of such safety devices may be publicised through print and visual media;
- (iii) Expediting installation of CCTV cameras through ECIL under Phase-2b of the 'CCTV Project' and the 'Safe City Project' under Nirbhaya Fund;
- (iv) Encourage individuals, RWAs and MWAs, etc., to install CCTV cameras at identified spots by pooling their own resources under the 'Nigehban' Scheme;
- (v) Expediting installation of Special 360 degree or other technologically advanced cameras by the concerned agencies;
- (vi) Formulation of a strategy to impress upon the Motor Vehicle Manufacturers in the country to introduce in-built safety features mandatory in the Motor Vehicles, viz., high security number plates with colour coded sticker including in-built Radio Frequency chips, anti-theft devices, vehicle tracking system, immobilizers, mandatory etching of vehicle Registration Number, etc.;
- (vii) Ensuring strict compliance of the 'Guidelines for scrapping of Motor Vehicles in Delhi, 2018';

- (viii) Ensuring strict compliance of the Automotive Industry Standards (AIS)-155 in respect of Microdot identifiers affixed on the motor vehicles and their parts, components, assemblies, sub-assemblies as per the Central Motor Vehicles (Fourteenth Amendment) Rules, 2019;
- (ix) Sensitizing the individuals such as chowkidars and private security guards, RWAs and MWAs about the 'Prahari' Scheme for enhancing neighbourhood security and making community policing more effective; and
- (x) Organizing regular counselling programmes including vocational training, sports or other extra-curricular activities for First-Time Offenders indulged in theft of Motor Vehicles at a much wider scale by co-opting the NGOs, Psychologists, Academicians, etc.

22. The Committee would like to recommend that a two pronged strategy could be adopted by Delhi Police in co-ordination with the Police Authorities of the neighbouring States. Firstly, the check points, from where the stolen vehicles are transported to other neighbouring States/Regions should have CCTV cameras which could also have an in-built facility of online assessing of movement of vehicles by the general public. Secondly, there is need to take strictest action against the organised crime syndicate involved in theft of vehicle so that once, they are nabbed in any neighbouring State, the Police Authorities of other States/Region(s) should get an immediate alert. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

NEW DELHI;

DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR,
Chairperson,
Committee on Petitions.

8 February, 2021

26 Pausa, 1942 (Saka)

**MINUTES OF THE FOURTEENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS
(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

The Committee met on Monday, 8 February, 2021 from 1130 hrs. to 1230 hrs. in Committee Room 'C', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Dr. Virendra Kumar - Chairperson

MEMBERS

2. Shri Harish Dwivedi
3. Shri Brijendra Singh
4. Shri Manoj Tiwari
5. Shri Rajan Vichare

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri T. G. Chandrasekhar - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Raju Srivastava - Director
3. Shri G. C. Dobhal - Additional Director

2. At the outset, the Hon'ble Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee.

3. The Committee, thereafter, took up for consideration the following Draft Reports :-

(i)	***	***	***	***
(ii)	***	***	***	***
(iii)	***	***	***	***
(iv)	***	***	***	***
(v)	***	***	***	***

(vi) Action Taken Report on the action taken by the Government on the recommendations made by the Committee on Petitions (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) in their Sixty-Fifth Report on the representation of Shri Suresh Srivastava forwarded by Shri R. K. Sinha, M.P., Rajya Sabha, regarding extensive theft of motor vehicles in Delhi.

4. After discussing the above mentioned Draft Reports in detail, the Committee adopted all the six Reports without any modification(s). The Committee also authorised the Chairperson to finalise the Draft Reports and present the same to the House.

The Committee, then, adjourned.

*** Does not pertain to this Report.