

Gadkari meets officials of Hyundai, Kia, M&M, Tata on CAFE norms

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Minister of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) Nitin Gadkari has reportedly assured the senior management of automobile companies such as Hyundai Motor India, Kia India, Tata Motors, Mahindra & Mahindra and JSW MG Motor India that their demand for ensuring a level-playing field will be taken up at the next inter Ministerial meeting on CAFE norms.

According to sources,

senior executives from these companies were closeted with the Minister till late night on Monday to drive home their opposition to the proposed incentives in the draft Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE) norms to small cars weighing 909 kg.

However, representatives of companies including Maruti Suzuki India, Renault India, Toyota Kirloskar Motor and Honda Cars India were not part of the meeting. Maruti Suzuki and Renault are strongly advocating incentives to small cars be-

cause of their presence in the category.

SMALL CARS CRITERIA

"The meeting was just about explaining the logic on the criteria for small cars in the proposed CAFE norms on why it is not a right criteria because it would derail the entire purpose of safe cars, long-term investment of the original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) ... and to keep the category as per the GST norms so that there is no confusion with a new category," a source privy to the meeting told *businessline*.



Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari

Sources also added that these companies informed the Minister of how small cars by Maruti Suzuki (Alto, S-Presso) and Renault

(Kwid) have failed in the safety crash test by Global NCAP, with Zero or 1-Star rating for children and 2-Stars for adult safety.

LEVEL PLAYING FIELD?

"It will not be a level-playing field because such norms would benefit only one or two companies. All such cars have 0 or one or two-Star safety ratings. So, if the government creates such categories, then it would mean we are promoting unsafe cars in the country because such cars can never meet the safety norms. And, MoRTH

itself is promoting Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP), so the industry has asked the Minister to look into such criteria," another source privy to the meeting said.

The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), in September, had released revised draft CAFE-III standards, for four-wheelers, which would kick off from April 1, 2027 until March 31, 2032. The revised draft gave weight-based exemption to vehicles running on petrol with characteristics such as weighing up to 909 kg.