

Bad to the bone

No jokes, this 500bhp Octavia is quicker than a Porsche.

Under the bonnet of this relatively tame-looking Octavia lies one of the most heavily modified motors you can find in India, one with a huge beast of a turbo.

At first you think there's something wrong. It doesn't feel especially quick from behind the wheel as the tach needle sweeps past 2000 and even 3000rpm. The motor sounds only marginally

different, the throttle responses are typically big-turbo 'lazy' and there isn't much else to differentiate it from any other chipped or tuned RS. The only clue is a heavy clutch. You need to make judicious use of your left calf muscle and even then the release is quite sudden. Other than that, it feels pretty ordinary.

Sure, this is a big turbo and that means it will take some waking up as the boost pressure builds, but this is now getting ridiculous.

We're up past 4000rpm and the performance is still identical to a car making 200bhp, rather than the claimed 500!

Then, as the needle swings past 4500rpm, there is a big intake of breath from under the bonnet and you get the impression that the motor is taking in a lungful of air, breathing in hard, its chest expanding. You feel slack muscles flexing and turbo boost building with explosive force. Then, just as

you are sure it's all huff and no puff, an invisible hand releases the bowstring and you are shot forward like an arrow. What did F1 drivers say about the turbocharged 1.5-litre cars back in the 1980s? Remember the talk of ultra-narrow powerbands due to those big turbos? This RS is not dissimilar. It makes all its effective power in a narrow powerband from 5000 to 7000rpm. You spin the motor, wind it hard and wait. Then, after a big



