

Bihar set to notify norms for registration of sleeper buses

BIG RELIEF Till now, the buses were operating either illegally or carried numbers from the neighbouring states

Subhash Pathak

subhash.pathak@hindustantimes.com

PATNA:Transporters will soon be able to operate sleeper buses from Bihar. The state government is set to notify the norms for registration of sleeper buses after chief minister Nitish Kumar gave his nod to the transport department's proposal for modification in norms for registration of these type of passenger vehicles.

Till now, sleeper buses have been operating either illegally or carried registration numbers from the neighbouring states like Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh. The transport department of those states have provisions for issuing registration to these type of buses.

Confirming the decision, Sanjay Kumar Agrawal, transport secretary, Bihar, said that the department would soon notify the provision of registration of sleeper buses in Bihar. "Registration fee of these buses will be

slightly higher than the normal buses with seating arrangements. The CM has okayed the recommendations of a high-level committee headed by transport commissioner Seema Tripathi, which proposed issuance of permit for sleeper buses to ply in the state," Agrawal added.

An estimated 500 interstate buses, most of them sleepers, operate daily from different places of Bihar. While majority of them are plying on roads without valid permits, some of them have got their registration from Jharkhand, UP and West Bengal.

"We were unable to launch a crackdown, as the centre and some other states have framed the rules to facilitate running of these buses. Bus operators' associations have for long been asking for the rules to register sleeper buses," said a senior officer of the department, adding that they were unable to realise extra tax for want of adequate provision.

Officials, however, said that



■ Registration fee of sleeper buses will be slightly higher than normal buses with seating arrangements. PTI

the department would issue permits to only those buses, which fulfilled the stipulated safety and security norms, besides caring for comfort of the travellers. "A set of norms have been framed by

the high-level committee after studying the operation of buses in various states, including Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Karnataka," they said, adding that the central government also had the

➤ The CM has okayed the recommendations of a high-level committee headed by transport commissioner Seema Tripathi, which proposed issuance of permit for sleeper buses to ply

SANJAY KUMAR AGRAWAL,
Transport Secretary, Bihar

provision for allowing running of sleeper buses.

The department is also likely to buy at least a couple of sleeper buses from Maharashtra. "Standard sleeper buses are not like the ones operating in the state. Existing buses, which have sleeping compartments overhead the seats, usually compromise with the comfort of the passengers," said the officers.