

Diesel autos to be banned in Patna from January 31 next year

TNN | Nov 7, 2019, 04.51 AM IST



PATNA: In a major move to improve the air quality of Patna in a phased manner, the state government has decided to ban diesel-based autorickshaws under Patna Municipal Corporation (PMC) area from January 31, 2021 midnight and in the Nagar Parishad areas of its three satellite towns of Danapur, Khagaul and Phulwarisharif from March 31 the same year.

The state cabinet approved the state transport department proposal on Wednesday. Similarly, the cabinet also approved the ban on “more than 15-year-old commercial vehicles” in Patna and its three aforesaid satellite towns with immediate effect. However, the ban on such commercial vehicles is not applicable on the roads outside Patna and its three satellite

towns or anywhere else in the country.

The ban is also not applicable on the private cars and other vehicles plying in Patna and its three satellite towns. However, all the 15 years old government vehicles in the state, including under the Patna Municipal Corporation area and Nagar Parishads of Danapur, Khagaul and Phulwarisharif, would be off roads “with immediate effect and would be treated as scrap material”.

State cabinet secretariat department principal secretary Dipak Kumar and the secretaries of transport department and information technology, Sanjay Kumar Agarwal and Rahul Singh, respectively, gave the details of the cabinet decisions to

improve the air quality of Patna. “Patna is the seventh most polluted city in the world and sixth most polluted in the country,” Agarwal said.

He said the government has announced subsidy scheme worth Rs30 crore for the diesel autorickshaw owners to switch over to the CNG or battery, or even petrol-based three-wheelers fitted with CNG Kit. Two CNG outlets have become functional and two more would be added by December. There would be 15 CNG outlets by the end of third quarter next year, he said and added: “Around 10,000 15-year-old commercial vehicles are running in the urban areas of Patna and its three satellite towns.”

Agarwal said the order would not immediately impact old private cars and other vehicles for which a separate policy would be announced later. Further, the policy formulated for Patna, Danapur, Khagaul and Phulwari would be applied in other towns of the state after assessing their pollution level.

However, all the government vehicles which are more than 15-year-old would be “treated as scrap material with immediate effect and would be disposed of as per the new scrap policy that the central government is in the process of formulating,” Agarwal said, adding that all the departments have been asked to furnish the details of the old cars running under their aegis.

For the conversion of a seven-seated diesel/petrol autorickshaw into the CNG vehicle, the subsidy amount payable in one instalment is Rs40,000. For the retrofitting of the CNG kit in the same kind of vehicle, the subsidy is Rs20,000, while Rs25,000 subsidy amount would be paid for its conversion to the battery run vehicle. Besides, Rs20,000 subsidy would be paid for the retrofitting of CNG kit in motor cab or maxi cab.