

PRESS RELEASE

An Analysis and study of the various road accidents, fatalities, causalities, etc. undertaken recently indicated that some of the chief reasons accountable for many of these accidents include **poor quality of driving skill of drivers, careless driving, inadequate awareness among road users, overloading**—particularly in respect of Goods Transport Vehicles, etc. Whereas with a view to improve the quality of driving Government have already initiated several steps such as prescribing comprehensive guidelines for setting up new driving schools, schemes for skill upgradation of the instructors employed in various driving schools, strengthening and prescribing specific and clear-cut procedures for grant of LLrs.(Licence for Learners) and regular driving licences, introducing testing procedures based on purely objective criterion, certain concrete efforts have also been initiated to upgrade the quality of teaching in the existing driving schools. Similarly Universities, Engineering colleges, Polytechnics, companies manufacturing motor vehicles, other institutions and organisations are also being encouraged to open fully

equipped, full-fledged, modernised drivers training schools. Efforts are also on to further improve upon the '***driving testing procedures***' by taking recourse to certain recent technological innovations and interventions – although it may not be out of place to mention that some of the initiatives have got into rough weather due to certain litigations filed by some of the associations of driving school owners and others. Efforts are being made to overcome these shortly.

2. As **overloading**—particularly in smaller public transport carriages such as **autorickshaws**, **share-autos** and also **in respect of goods transport vehicles** has been found to be one of the major causes of road accidents, certain initiatives have been taken **in the recent past** to tackle these effectively. Particularly in respect of Chennai City, concerted efforts are being made for the last several months jointly by the Transport and Police Departments to conduct frequent checks against all major **irregularities including overloading** against autorickshaws and share-autos and cases so booked are being taken to logical finality.

3. Similarly in respect goods transport carriages also, sections 113 and 114 of the M.V.Act 1988 lay down very specific stipulations and prescribe very stringent penalties for violations. Accordingly during the year 2007 itself, detailed set of instructions have been issued to all the Regional Transport Officers, Unit Officers and enforcement officers of the Transport Department to implement these in letter and spirit and impose upon the violators with maximum punishments and fines prescribed under the Law which can go up to a sum of Rs.5,000/- in respect of each case of violations.

4. One set of representatives of Lorry Owners Association also have recently met the Hon'ble Minister for Transport, represented and urged for complete and vigorous implementation of the laws and rules against overloading. Transport Department has also taken up the matter with the Chennai Port Trust and the other agencies urging them **not** to allow any vehicle to overload goods and also give details of all such vehicles, transport companies, etc. to the Transport Department of the State are found to have been indulging in overloading to enable us take penal action.

5. All the transporters, truck operators and owners of goods carriers are therefore strictly warned and advised **not** to indulge in overloading under any circumstances. They are also informed that maximum penalties and punishments as prescribed under the law will be imposed upon the violators in case they are found plying overloaded vehicles.

Sd./

Special Commissioner &

Transport Commissioner.

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