

PRESS RELEASE

The Supreme Court of India in its Judgement in Writ Petition (Civil) No.13029 of 1985 have issued certain directions to be observed by the Police and Transport authorities with regard to transport of school children, to and fro, schools. The above order was communicated along with the letter of the Government of India, received by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

2. Taking due note of these directions the Enforcement Officials of the Transport Department have been suitably advised in Transport Commissioner's Circular instructions for strict adherence to the directions of the Supreme Court particularly on the following lines: -

- i) The licenses of the Drivers, depending upon the irregularities shall either be suspended/revoked deterrently.
- ii) Regional Transport Officers and Regional Transport Authorities should take suitable action for provision of Speed Brakers and Sign Boards near the premises of the schools and colleges.
- iii) The correspondents of schools and colleges and their drivers have to be issued with the instructions that

wherever and whenever plying with over speed and whenever negligency of driving is noticed a very deterrent action shall be taken according to law against the erring drivers.

- iv) All the vehicles belonging to Educational Institutions shall be prominently written with on the back and front as 'Educational Institution Vehicle' and this shall be enforced by the checking officials of the Transport Department.
- v) If the Educational Institution hires vehicles they shall be displayed prominently with 'On School Duty' and shall be enforced by the checking officials of the Transport Department, at the time of vehicles checking and at the time of renewal of fitness certificate of such vehicles.
- vi) First Aid Box should be provided in all the Educational Institution Vehicles and shall be ensured by the field officers of the Transport Department.
- vii) Windows of Educational Institution Vehicles shall be fitted with the Horizontal Grills.
- viii) Fire Extinguishers shall be provided in all Educational Institution Vehicles and this should be watched by the field officers of the Transport Department.

- ix) All vehicles shall be written with the school name and telephone number and this shall be ensured by the Transport Officials.
- x) Doors of the Educational Institution Vehicles shall be fitted with reliable locking facilities.

3. It has also been requested that the Regional Transport Officers shall furnish copies of the above Circular to the District Collectors, Superintendents of Police, Revenue Divisional Officers, Deputy Superintendents of Police and also to widely publicize the above issue through medias such as Newspapers, Magazines, Pamphlets etc.,

4. Based on the instructions issued by this office the Regional Transport Officers and Motor Vehicles Inspectors of Unit Offices have conducted meetings on the above issue with all the School/College Management and Drivers of School Buses and directed them to follow the above directions of the Hon`ble Supreme Court/High Court of Madras.

5. Also while disposing of a Public Interest Litigation in Writ Petition No.47114 of 2002 preferred and filed for the safety of school children travelling in school buses, the Hon`ble High Court, Madras in its order dated 09.10.07, have directed the Union of

India and the State Government that it would be duty of the State Government, concerned authorities of Transport Department, Superintendents of Police and other Police Officials of a District to comply with the principles laid down in the directions of the Supreme Court on the above issue in letter and spirit.

6. With a view to implement these, we have already issued necessary instructions to the enforcement officials of the Transport Department to implement the directions of the Hon`ble High Court in letter and spirit. We have also initiated suitable proposals including certain amendments to relevant sections of the Motor Vehicles Act and Rules made thereunder so as to implement the above directions of the Hon`ble High Court effectively. All the Educational Institutions in the State also have been informed about the directions of the Hon`ble High Court and Hon`ble Supreme Court of India by the Regional Transport Officers of this Department.

7. As the effective implementation of the above would require a multi disciplinary initiative; we have requested all the District Collectors, Superintendents of Police and Commissioners of Police of the State to gear up the machinery at all levels immediately, form the monitoring committee under the Chairmanship of local Revenue Divisional Officers/Sub/Assistant Collectors (as the case may be)

and ensure that the directions of the Hon'ble High Court are followed strictly in letter and spirit. We have also requested them to issue suitable instructions to all concerned for effective implementation of these directions. Further we have also requested them to include this as one of the standing subjects for review and assessment in the monthly District Road-Safety Council Meetings so that the subject acquires due importance.

8. It is therefore appealed to all the concerned to render their full cooperation in this regard.

வேளியூர், இயக்குநர்.
செய்தி, மக்கள் தொடர்புத் துறை,
தலைமைச் செயலகம், சென்னை-8.