

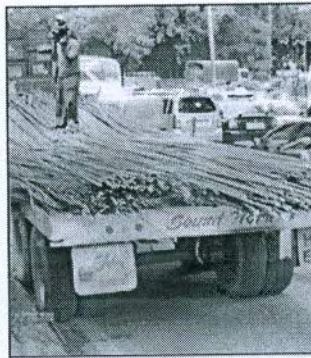
Govt finally wakes up, to regulate hazardous trucks

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New Delhi: The road transport ministry will soon make it mandatory for all goods vehicles to have their cargo like city waste covered so that none of the items they carry either protrude from the vehicles or fall out. The norm will also specify that any vehicle caught violating the norm won't be allowed to do so unless such items are transferred to another vehicle that comply with the rules.

Despite the Supreme Court order and government banning vehicles from carrying rods, pipes or any protruding material beyond the body frame, this norm is being violated openly because of poor enforcement. One can often find vehicles carrying loose materials such as sand and loose earth without proper cover and as a result these materials fall out of the vehicles.

"Only imposing fine does not serve the purpose since the menace returns on to the road as soon as the vehicle is



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back on the road. So, the rule will specify that the operator has to make alternate arrangement to transfer the items to a covered vehicle, else the vehicle will stand there for days. That will hit their business and people will mend their behaviour," said road transport secretary Y S Malik while addressing an event on safe roads by industry body Assocham.

Union road transport minister Nitin Gadkari had recently told **TOI** that his ministry will come out with policy making it mandatory for trucks to cover the loose items (pre-cover arrangement) they carry to check air pollution in urban areas. Most municipal bodies don't deploy fully cov-

ered vehicles to transport garbage in urban areas and these often becomes a nuisance.

"The only solution to the menace is not to allow the vehicle to ply and the legal provisions have to be strict. We will have the rule in place in next one month," said an official.

Meanwhile, NHA and Dredging Corporation of India (DCI) have signed an MoU to ensure adequate supply of sand for road construction. DCI, which is looking for dredging at various south-east Asian sites, will ensure supplies in the domestic market. As per the MoU, business intermediaries will ship and store this sand at various ports in India and market it within the country, a statement said.

Study: 50% highway drivers have eye defect

REPRESENTATIVE PICTURE



By Mail Today Bureau in New Delhi

AN ASTONISHING 50% of the 6,000 highway drivers that underwent a vision test were found to be with weak eyes, a major cause for concern in a country which accounts for about 11 per cent of the world's road accidents, a top official said on Wednesday.

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) organised a three-day eye testing camp at its toll plazas in which 6,000 drivers registered.

As many as 3,000 of them were distributed spectacles, the official said. "And you will be shocked to know that 1,000 among them had a number of two-plus

and were driving without spectacles," secretary of the ministry of highways Yudhvir Malik said at 'Safe Road Safe Life' event organised here by industry body Assocham.

India accounts for 11 per cent of the world's road accidents

Taking a cue from this, Malik said, the NHAI is not only facilitating health check-up camps, but every camp is keeping glasses with power number 1.75 to 2.5 for immediate distribution. Besides, Malik said, that it is only in India that a person, till a few years ago, could acquire driving licences without appearing before the authority and hold multiple licences. "In contrast, in countries like the UK, it is

a rigorous process," he said, adding driving institutes will have to play a major role in terms of enhancing and building up the driving capacity, and the new Road Safety Bill will have a provision that if one has a training certificate from an accredited driving school, the person will not be required to appear before a driving licensing authority. Malik said the major cause of accident in case of long-haul commercial driving is due to fatigue and sickness. "We have identified along national highways 18 sites where we are immediately taking up development of wayside amenities of which 15-20 are proposed to be only for trucks," he said, hoping that the new Road Safety Bill will get the Parliament nod soon. The Bill proposes hefty penalty for violation of traffic rules.

(With PTI inputs)

राज्य सभा से मोटर वाहन बिल को मंजूरी मिलने की उम्मीद : युद्धवीर सिंह



वीरवार को रोल ऑफ स्टॉकहोल्डर्स पर बोलते सड़क एवं परिवहन और राजमार्ग के सचिव युद्धवीर सिंह मलिक। फोटो: नीरज कुमार

नई दिल्ली, 13 दिसम्बर (ब्यूरो): सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्रालय को उम्मीद है कि इस साल संसद के शीतकालीन सत्र के दौरान राज्य सभा द्वारा मोटर वाहन (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2016 को मंजूरी दे दी जाएगी। यह बातें बुधवार को सड़क एवं परिवहन और राजमार्ग के

सचिव युद्धवीर सिंह मलिक ने नई दिल्ली में एसोचैम की ओर से सुरक्षित सड़क-सुरक्षित जीवन विषय पर आयोजित एक कार्यक्रम में कही। कार्यक्रम को मुख्य वक्ता के रूप में संबोधित करते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि ड्राइवरों की क्षमता निर्माण में ड्राइवर ट्रेनिंग स्कूल महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभा सकते हैं। नए मोटर व्हीकल एक्ट में ऐसी व्यवस्था की गई है। इसके तहत अगर किसी के पास अधिकृत ट्रेनिंग स्कूल द्वारा जारी किया गया ड्राइवर ट्रेनिंग सर्टिफिकेट है तो उसे लाइसेंस जारी करने वाले प्राधिकरण से पहले ड्राइविंग टेस्ट देने की जरूरत नहीं होगी। सड़क इंजीनियरिंग में

खामियां भी दुर्घटना का मुख्य कारण है। मंत्रालय ने पिछले दो-तीन सालों में 780 ब्लैक स्पॉट की पहचान की है, जहां पर तीन से अधिक दुर्घटनाएं हुईं। इसलिए राज्य सभा में मोटर वाहन बिल को मंजूरी मिलना बेहद जरूरी है।

