

Govt to ban 2-stroke engine autos in city

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: If the government has its way, autorickshaws that run on two-stroke engines will soon be off Bengaluru roads. A proposal has been sent to the environment and ecology department to ban such autorickshaws which are considered the worst polluters among vehicles.

Transport minister Ramalinga Reddy told the legislative council on Tuesday that 30,000 two-stroke engine autos are operating in the city.

The decision comes in the wake of a direction from the high court to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) which has instructed the transport department to impose a ban. The minister said the government is thinking of hiking the existing Rs 30,000 subsidy to owners/drivers to facilitate upgradation from two-stroke to four-stroke autos.

PWD minister H C Mahadevappa said the government will give directions to toll operators in the state to dedicate a separate lane for ambulances and VIP vehicles.

Leaders, cutting across the party lines, have demanded action against toll operators for not dedicating a separate lane, he claimed.

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TIME FOR A CHANGE

TIMES VIEW

Many eco-conscious nations have long moved over to less-polluting and energy-efficient engines, but the Garden City is still burdened with outdated and smoky vehicles. Banning autos that run on two-stroke motors is a decision that can go a long way in making the city a more breathable place. Though the move is backed by studies that indicate such engines don't combust fuel efficiently and pollute the air, it may not go down well with vehicle owners and drivers. While asking them to switch to advanced models, the authorities must enhance financial support as they make the transition.