

# NGT fumes at city govt's diesel reply

## Questions Plan To Induct 10,000 New Buses, Pulls Up DTC For Lax Testing And Noise Pollution

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** National Green Tribunal on Monday took strong exception to the Delhi government's submission that only 41 of 700 vehicles entering the city were found to be polluting. It directed the enforcement wing of the transport department, Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), weights and measures department and Delhi Police to send their teams to check vehicles



**LET DELHI BREATHE**

at three entry points on Monday night. "Let them smell diesel through the night... and report to us," an NGT bench said.

Vehicles have to be monitored at Sonepat-Delhi border, Ghaziabad-Delhi border and Bahadurgarh-Delhi border between 5pm and 7am. The teams will have to be fully

equipped and they have to document the age, weight and the extent of pollution caused by each vehicle.

Meanwhile, the tribunal said the government should carry out a study on whether Delhi's traffic can handle 10,000 more buses that it is planning to deploy. "It's healthy that you have decided to bring in so many buses, but you must have a study on whether Delhi's roads can handle that kind of traffic," it said.

The bench also expressed displeasure after learning that DTC didn't file any report on fitness test of its buses. "One year is not enough to conduct a study? Seven of your buses had to be impounded. Have you checked how much noise CNG buses are making? Have any of these vehicles been tested for noise pollution? You think you have the right to turn people of Delhi deaf?" the bench asked.

NGT also pulled up the Haryana government for not submitting a status report on the eastern and western peripher-

### POINTED QUESTIONS

#### WHAT DTC IS ASKED

- 1** Have you conducted a study on how much noise CNG buses make?
- 2** You think you have the right to turn people of Delhi deaf?
- 3** Why can't you buy new recovery trucks?

#### QUESTIONS FOR CENTRE

- Have you identified areas with low pollution?
- Have you identified what should be the life of a vehicle?
- If old vehicles are causing 1% of the pollution, what about the 99%?

#### WHAT OTHERS GET

- Delhi government slammed for not implementing any direction of NGT on fixing weighbridges or pollution checks of vehicles
- NGT refuses to accept affidavits of Haryana and

#### NHAI on bypasses; asks for a progress report

- On Indraprastha Gas Limited's request on allowing it to expand supply in NCR, NGT says, 'Who has stopped you? You can say clearly you have come here for business'

al expressways that can be crucial in taking load off Delhi's roads. The lawyer representing Haryana claimed that a part of the western peripheral expressway from Manesar to Palwal will be ready by 2016. "There is no magic stick for the bypasses. You have to con-

struct it," it said while asking it to file a status report on Wednesday.

Observing that the work is moving at a "snail's pace", NGT said, "You had given an undertaking to the Supreme Court that both expressways would be completed by 2017.

### Times View

The manner in which the state and central governments have conducted themselves in this issue is not conducive to good policy making. What is needed is solid, incontrovertible data from an independent body on exactly which source contributes how much to air pollution in Delhi. Policy must then be based on what the data tells us rather than on impressions or on which lobby is most vocal. Given the magnitude of the problem, and the disastrous effect it has on public health, it is a shame that these simple steps have not yet been taken.

Why have you not allotted work till date," the bench asked. On construction of weighbridges, NHAI submitted it can construct them only at places where it has its own toll booths. The bench directed NHAI chairman to be present in person on Wednesday.

The Centre, on the other hand, continued to argue

against phasing out of vehicles based on age. Pinky Anand, additional solicitor general, once again quoted from the IIT reports that were rubbished by the tribunal earlier. "Banning old diesel vehicles will have a miniscule effect as studies have suggested they can reduce pollution by 1%," she said.

"What about the rest of the 99%? How can we deal with that? What do you mean by you don't have details?" the tribunal asked.

"Government of India is saying vehicles don't cause pollution, Delhi government is saying vehicles from outside also not causing pollution. Something must be wrong somewhere," the bench added.

NGT asked the Centre if it had identified low pollution zones where polluting vehicles can be moved. It also clarified that no NOC will be issued for transfer of vehicles to other parts of NCR because the ban is enforced everywhere in this region. The Centre claimed identifying such places is the responsibility of the states.