

Circular No. 06/2011

Sub: Safety measures in schools – Prevention of accidents of vehicles carrying Schoolchildren- Instructions issued – Reg.

1) Vehicles carrying schoolchildren are getting involved in accidents frequently, resulting in deaths and serious injuries. A recent incident is one which occurred at Karikkakom in Thiruvananthapuram city in which six nursery students died. The following instructions are issued as part of our efforts to avert the recurrence of such incidents.

2) All SHOs are directed to take adequate and proper steps to conduct checks, in coordination with Motor Vehicle Department to ensure compliance of the following instructions issued by the State Transport Authority with regard to buses of Educational Institutions:-

- (i) The bus belonging to or hired by an Educational Institution shall be driven by a driver who has more than 10 years driving experience.
- (ii) The driver should not have been punished at any time for rash and negligent driving or drunken driving.
- (iii) Omni Buses used as buses of Educational Institution shall be fitted with Speed Governor conforming to the prescribed standards for restricting speed to 40 Km/hr.
- (iv) An able bodied attendant for each door should be available for the safe boarding, carriage and alighting of the students.
- (v) The number of passengers carried shall not exceed the limitation prescribed in Rule 221 of KMV Rules.
- (vi) The buses shall be provided with shutter for each door.

3) It is noticed that a large number of vehicles which are actually engaged in carrying children to School and back are not owned or hired by the Schools and do not fall within the purview of the permit conditions applicable to School buses. They include Mini Buses, Vans, Light vehicles and Auto-rickshaws. They are being engaged by the parents independently and there is no effective control over these vehicles regarding over-loading, conduct of drivers etc. It is highly essential to regulate the vehicles carrying schoolchildren to schools and back.

- 4) SHOs of all Police Stations shall identify all the schools within their jurisdiction where classes from Kindergarten to 4th standard are conducted. He shall convene the meeting of the Principals/Headmasters of these schools during April-May every year and brief them about security precautions to be adopted by the schools, specially with regard to very young children who cannot be expected to look after their own safety.
- 5) Each School may be advised to nominate one teacher as the "School Safety Officer". He/she shall ascertain the mode of conveyance of each student to the school and back. He/She may identify all the vehicles which are regularly used for collective transportation of children to the school. The Registration Number of the vehicles and the names of drivers of the vehicles shall be ascertained by such officer and entered in a register. The S.H.O. shall visit the school premises regularly and get a copy of the list and verify the antecedents and conduct of such drivers. This is important not only from the traffic safety point of view, but also from the point of view other crimes involving children.
- 6) The Principals/Headmasters may also be requested to advise the parents about the risks to which their wards are exposed. They may be advised to avoid sending children in vehicles which are over-crowded or with drivers who are not mature and who are total strangers.
- 7) The School Safety Officer shall also be advised to report to the Police about any violation of traffic safety regulations or misconduct by the drivers of the vehicles carrying children. His contact telephone number must be known to the S.H.O. and the Station Staff.
- 8) SHOs shall frequently conduct surprise checks in front of the Schools during the arrival and departure times of students to detect any instances of overcrowding or rash driving. But at the same time, care should be taken to avoid the students being stranded on the roads while taking action against the drivers of vehicles.
- 9) Senior Officers visiting / inspecting the Police Stations shall verify and ensure that adequate steps are taken by the SHO to prevent accidents of vehicles carrying school children.
- 10) The above instructions are issued in order to enable police to effectively discharge functions necessitated by section 38, 39 and 61 of Kerala Police Act 2010.

**State Police Chief,
Kerala.**

To

All Officers in List 'B' for information and necessary action.

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SP (Spl cell).

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