

HIM GRAMIN PARIVAHAN SWAROJGAR YOJNA (GPSY)

REASONS AND OBJECTIVE

Himachal Pradesh is a hilly State, and its topography is quite different from other States of the country. The predominant way to traverse the length & breadth of the state is by road transport and Railways and Waterways have little relevance in the State. Road Transport, therefore, is the backbone for the all-around developmental activities in the State. The Govt. of Himachal Pradesh has established Department of Transport for the regulation and control of Road Transport and this department is playing a vital role for expansion of transport facilities for the public.

Over the years, Government of Himachal Pradesh has emphasized on the construction of roads particularly for rural connectivity and thus even the remotest parts are now getting connected by road. Consequently, total length of road in Himachal Pradesh is nearly 27584 Kms, which includes National Highways & State Highways. The importance of Road Transport is also evident from the fact that total number of vehicles of all kinds as on 31.12.2007 has gone upto 3, 70,224. The population of the State is in excess of 60 lac people whereas passenger buses are nearly 5000 only. The availability of public transport needs to be improved so as to cater to the demands of people. With rural connectivity being improved people want to travel by road. Therefore, there is a need for providing better transport facilities particularly in far-flung rural areas. Simultaneously there is problem of unemployment in the state which needs to be addressed. The unemployed youth are to be assisted in creating self-employment and this scheme is being proposed in keeping with the budget announcement/Budget Speech of the year 2008-2009. The Himachal Road Transport Corporation has requested that if sufficient numbers of vehicles are plied on certain routes under this scheme the

HRTC should be given permission to withdraw vehicles from such routes. The HRTC is incurring losses running in crores of rupees due to its compulsion of plying buses on uneconomic routes due to the seating capacity not being fully utilised thus leading to heavy running cost per seat. Vehicles with lesser seating capacity which consequently would be more fuel economical and more cost effective can be run on such routes by unemployed youth who can be granted permits at concessional rates. Thus there would be a two fold benefits i.e. (i) Self employment will be provided (ii) Loss incurring vehicles on such route would be withdrawn and more cost effective vehicles with lesser seating capacity will provide better service to the people. Private operators are reluctant to provide services on such routes. However, plying of personalised vehicles illegally is in vogue in these areas. Unemployment on the other hand is one of the problems to be addressed. Thus, the HIM GRAMIN PARIVAHAN SWAROJGAR YOJNA (HIM GPSY) aims to achieve the said objective. The scheme will be called Him **“Gramin Parivahan Swarojgar Yojna (HIM GPSY)”**

1. Short, title and commencement: -

- i. This scheme shall be called the HIM GRAMIN PARIVAHAN SWAROJGAR YOJNA (HIM GPSY)
- ii. The scheme shall come into force from the date appointed by the State Government through publication in the official gazette.
- iii. It shall extend to the whole State of Himachal Pradesh.

2. DEFINITION.-

In this scheme unless there is anything contained repugnant to the meaning or context thereof, the following expression shall mean as follows:-

- i. “Act” means the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988 as amended from time to time.
- ii. “Rules” shall mean the rules made under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.
- iii. “Director” means the Director of Transport, Himachal Pradesh
- iv. “Government” means the State Government of Himachal Pradesh.
- v. “Rural area” means the area other than Nagar Panchayat, Cantonment, Municipal Corporation/Municipal Committee.
- vi. “Permit” means the permit for Stage Carriage issued under the provision of Motor Vehicles Act & rules there under.

3. ADVERTISEMENT OF RURAL ROUTES

- (i) Transport Department shall advertise rural routes under this scheme for which route permits shall be granted to ply maxi cabs with a seating capacity of not more than 22 passengers to the unemployed youths/co-operative societies of drivers and conductors.
- (ii) The permits may be granted under this scheme primarily on the newly opened roads under “*Pradhanmantri Gramin Sarak Yojna*” or “*Mukhya Mantri Path Yojna*” or any other rural roads, and no route permit shall be issued exclusively on National Highway/State Highway. However, any route can have 80% rural roads and up to 20% National/State Highways.
- (iii) Applicants who are granted new permits will have to purchase vehicles conforming to Euro-II & Euro-III norms.

4. APPLICABILITY

- (i) The scheme shall be applicable to the rural roads other than National Highways and State Highways.

- (ii) The holder of the route permit under this scheme shall have to apply for stage carriage vehicles with a seating capacity upto 22 seats.
- (iii) No inter state routes shall be granted under this scheme, neither any permit would be granted which would use corridor in any other State.
- (iv) The Special Road tax shall be calculated as per provisions of H.P. Motor Vehicle Taxation Act 1972; However tax incentive as specified would be applicable.
- (v) General condition of the permit shall be applicable to the permit holder under this scheme.

5. ELIGIBILITY

- (a) The person who has attained the age of 18 years and has not attained the age of 45 years;
- (b) is not in the Govt. service or employed in any Private or Public Sector establishment; and
- (c) Whose name is in the live register with the employment exchange established and maintained by the Govt. and certificate to this effect to be issued by Distt Employment officer and should not be older than 6 months.
- (d) the applicant should be bonafide resident of Himachal Pradesh certificate to this effect to be issued by concerned Sub Divisional Magistrate (Civil)
- (e) the applicant should be holding a valid driving licence for transport vehicles as per amended rules vide G.S.R. 221(E) dated 28.3.2001. He should be willing to drive a vehicle himself (except in case of handicapped persons);
- (f) The application shall be made on a prescribed proforma of the Department of Transport.
- (g) An eligible widow shall be exempted from the condition of holding a valid driving license.

6. TAX INCENTIVE UNDER THE SCHEME.

(i) Special Road tax of the permit holder under this scheme shall be payable by the holder of the permit as under:-

15% tax shall be charged to all the operators plying vehicles under this scheme subject to the condition that they will discharge the social obligation presently being undertaken by the HRTC such as free travel facilities to various categories/ pass holders.

(ii) In case, it is found that the permit holder is not discharging the above social obligations being undertaken by the HRTC, then the permit shall be cancelled.

(iii) NO permit holder shall be allowed to surrender the route permit of its grant.

7. COLOUR PATTERN

The colour pattern of the vehicle under this scheme shall be of "White" with 10 c.m. Wide post office red colour strip and the vehicle shall be painted with the name of the scheme "**HIM GRAMIN PARIVAHAN SWAROJGAR YOJNA**" (GPSY) on both sides of the vehicle below the window glasses of the body along with name and address of the permit holder in English and Hindi on either side of the vehicle. The front and back wind screen shall be having strip of 6" (six inches) written with taping numbers "**GRAMIN PARIVAHAN SWAROJGAR YOJNA**" (GPSY)

8. PROCEDURE FOR SELECTION OF BENEFICIARIES

(i) The Regional Transport Authority shall hold its meeting as per the procedure laid down in the Central Motor Vehicles Act & Rules and H.P. Motor Vehicles Rules, 1999, and consider the cases under this scheme for grant of permit.

- (ii) In case there are more applicants than the number of routes approved under this scheme for a particular route, selection of beneficiaries will be done by drawing of lots.

9. MONITORING OF THE SCHEME

The implementation of the scheme shall be monitored at District level by the Committee to be constituted as under :-

District Level Committee:-

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| 1. Deputy Commissioner | Chairman |
| 2. Chairman Zila Parishad | Member |
| 3. XEN HPPWD Concerned | Member |
| 4. All Non-official members of Concerned RTA | Member |
| 5. RTO | Member-Secretary |

State Level Monitoring Committee:-

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| 1. Secretary (Transport) to the govt. of HP | Chairman |
| 2. Director Transport | Member |
| 3. Secretary, State Transport Authority | Member |
| 4. MD/GM of financial Institution | Member |
| 5. Regional / Zonal Officer of lead Banks (CO bank) | Member |
| 6. All non official members of STA | Member |
| 7. Deputy Director Transport | Member-Secretary |

These committees shall meet at least once in a quarter and review Implementation of the scheme.