

Where and how to get HSRP installed, ask vehicle owners

Transport Dept Sets Deadline Of November 17

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Bengaluru: A recent notification issued by the transport department making it mandatory for vehicles registered before April 1, 2019, to install High Security Registration Plates (HSRP) by November 17, 2023 and warning of penalties otherwise has left many vehicle owners anguished.

The notification is full of jargons, but lacks clarity on the modalities involved in purchasing a new HSRP, they allege.

The August 17 notification states that HSRP fitment will be done by vehicle manufacturers (OEMs) and their dealers. HSRP manufacturers authorised by OEMs will supply the number plates. It also states that vehicle owners can book HSRP and make payment for the same through an online portal authorised by the OEMs to maintain transparency and prevent excess charging. Vehicle owners also have the option of getting the HSRP delivered and installed at their home or place of work for additional charges.

Vehicle owners, however, say the notification doesn't have any detail about the authorised online address where HSRP can be booked and the



'WILL ADDRESS CONCERNS'

Transport commissioner Yogesh AM said: "For the benefit of vehicle owners, we will soon come out with guidelines on how to book an HSRP online."

Asked if the three-month deadline is sufficient for lakhs of vehicle owners to replace their number plates, the official said if extension is needed, a decision will be taken after three months.

DOUBTS GALORE: Vehicle users say lack of clarity in the HSRP notification has left them in a quandary

TIMES VIEW

The transport department's notification that all vehicles registered before April 1, 2019 must get High Security Registration Plates in three months is an exercise in ad hocism. Even in the best of circumstances, expecting 1.7 crore vehicles to get HSRP will be

a logistical nightmare. The ham-fisted notification that doesn't provide even basic information like where to get HSRP and how much it costs, makes it clear that the department has the worst of the situation on its hands. For its decision to be taken seriously, it must promptly extend the deadline and provide all required information to motorists.

cost involved. They say online searches do show up some vendors but there's nothing to prove their authenticity.

Naresh Rao, who tried to book an HSRP for his car after the notification, said: "I have a car whose manufacturer exited the Indian market two years ago. When I tried to book an HSRP by visiting the website of an HSRP manufacturer, it validated the details provided by me. However, when I tried to select a dealer, it was completely blank. Without dealers being listed, how do I make a booking? I wrote five mails to the manufacturer, but in vain. I don't know who to escalate my problem to."

Rao said the notification lacks details on empanelled HSRP manufacturers and their

online address.

No logic in 3-mnth deadline

Many vehicle owners are questioning the rationale behind the three-month deadline. Shashank R, a car owner, said: "The department itself claims that Karnataka has over 1.7 crore vehicles registered prior to April 1, 2019. If one goes by the deadline, over 2 lakh plates must be manufactured daily. Do vendors in the state have the infrastructure to produce HSRP of that magnitude? The deadline should be relaxed."

No checks on fake HSRP

In the past, the transport department made several attempts to introduce HSRP for old vehicles. It even floated tenders to select an agency to

supply the HSRP, but no progress was achieved. There have been instances of traffic police booking cases against "faulty" number plates and insisting that vehicle owners replace their old ones with HSRP. People vented their ire on social media for making HSRP compulsory without bringing any government order.

Some vehicle owners, assuming that HSRP was already mandatory, approached local vendors and got what they were told was an HSRP installed. But now they are wondering if theirs is genuine. There are also roadside vendors offering HSRP, but their authenticity is anybody's guess.

Madhusudhan AS, a software professional, said that on reading about reports of the government contemplating making HSRP mandatory, he approached a popular automobile dealer in Tumakuru. They offered to provide him with an 'authentic' HSRP for his bike and charged him Rs 1,200 for a set of number plates. "They also assured me that these plates were authenticate and valid across India. However, when I inquired with a traffic cop a few days ago, he told me that they were duplicate. The plates almost resembles HSRP, but doesn't have a 10-digit unique number."

A few months ago, the ministry of road transport and highways (MoRTH) had asked state governments to act against unauthorised vendors producing and fitting HSRP.