

BUS SERVICE TO LINK CITIES WITH GROWTH CENTRES

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 21: The state government Tuesday asked officials to strengthen city bus services in various Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and make them more effective in the coming years so as to connect the cities with their nearest industrial centres.

Reviewing the present status of the city bus service operation at a high-level meeting in the secretariat, chief secretary directed senior officials of Housing and Urban Development department to augment the services within the city limits and outskirts of the towns.

According to sources, Padhi

had suggested to the officials that the seven Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) — that are operating in various ULBs for management of the city bus services—should focus more on providing intra-city connectivity to the commuters.

Officials have decided to link the city with its nearest industrial and growth centers through this service.

The present bus service is being provided by Bhubaneswar Puri Transport Services Ltd (BPTSL) for Bhubaneswar, Puri, Khordha, Jatani and Cuttack; Ganjam Urban Transport Service Limited (GUTSL) for Berhampur, Chhatrapur, Gopalpur and Hinjilikkatu;



Western Orissa Urban Transport Service Ltd (WOUTSL) for Sambalpur, Jharsuguda and Bargarh; Cuttack Urban Transport Service Ltd (CUTSL) for Cuttack, Choudwar, Banki and Bhubaneswar; Sundargarh Urban Transport Trust (SUTT) for Rourkela, Biramitrapur, Rajgangpur; Jeypore Koraput Sunabedha Urban Transport

Trust (JKSUTT) for Jeypore, Koraput & Sunabedha; and Balasore Bhadrakh Urban Transport Trust (BBUTT) for Balasore, Bhadrakh, Soro, Nilgiri and Basudevpur.

There are 329 buses plying on 67 routes of these ULBs, carrying at least 98,500 passengers in a day. Officials have also been asked to fix the intra-city routes

and number of buses to ply on them, depending upon people's needs. Besides, the chief secretary directed officials to encourage and promote pollution free e-rickshaw in the cities with tax-waiver incentives. The department has also been asked to take appropriate steps for discarding old and polluting public vehicles from the city routes in a phased manner.

The issues concerning the city level permits for the urban bus service, city bus modernization through ITEs, development of bus terminals in the ULBs, and enforcement of the route permits were also discussed and resolved in the meeting.