

From

K.J. Joseph, IPS.  
Additional Director General of Police,  
Transport Commissioner.

To

All Regional Transport Officers/  
All Sub Regional Transport Officers.

Sir,

Sub:- Stage Carriages - Specifications for body  
building - Safety of Passengers - reg.

It is presumed that you are informed of the most tragic bus accident at Aimcompu near Pala on 22.10.1998 in which 16 female passengers were charred to death inside the bus. The death toll has since gone upto 20. I have inspected the scene of accident and the bus involved, as part of an enquiry ordered by the Government. Based on the preliminary findings the following directions are issued for immediate compliance, in the interest of Safety of bus passengers all over the State:

- (1) Any extra 'guard rail' fitted to the windows of buses in the recent years (in compliance of KMV Rule 285 (a)(ii) or any other orders) may be got removed immediately.
- (2) It is clarified that notwithstanding any previous instructions on the matter, no guard rails should be above the shoulder level of passengers (while seated).
- (3) In many buses grills made of iron rods/pipes are seen provided outside the glazed portion at the rear. This prevents escape through the rear of the bus in times of emergencies. Therefore, all such grills will be got removed forthwith. Only a single ladder will be allowed at the rear.

All officers are requested to ensure that all buses are modified forthwith as instructed above. This may be done by giving wide publicity in local dailies, by giving notice to officials of district level Bus Operators associations and by instructing crew of the bus personally at the bus stands etc.

Yours faithfully,

  
Transport Commissioner.

Copy to: Zonal Dy. Transport Commissioners for intimation and  
to follow up compliance.  
" CAS to TC/Addl. TC/Secy. STA/Sr. DTC (Tax)

mn. 27.10.