

Cops on green run



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Kolkata, April 7

THEY MIGHT wear khaki but they think green. The Kolkata Police has undertaken a project in which they are experimenting to run their vehicles using bio-fuel. This is probably the first time in the country that any government or private organisation is using bio-fuel on a 50-50 basis (50 per cent bio-fuel and 50 per cent diesel).

The police failed to implement the switch to green autos, but have succeeded in making their own fleet eco-friendly.

Joint commissioner of police (traffic), Ranveer Kumar said, "Two of our vehicles are running on bio-fuel (palm-oil based diesel). We started the project three days ago and our jeeps in the wireless section are running on this fuel. If this proves successful, we would try to run our vehicles with 100 per cent bio-fuel. The experiment

would continue for a month and during this period we are keeping a watch on the pollution level and efficiency of the engine."

Earlier, the Calcutta Tramways Company (CTC) had introduced bio-fuel for their fleet. A few hundred buses of the CTC are already running on bio-fuel supplied by Emami Biotech. But even CTC uses 20 per cent bio-fuel with 80 per cent diesel. Indian Railways too has started to use oil from jatropha plant to power some of its diesel engines.

Automobile expert and alternative energy management consultant S.M. Ghosh, said, "The bio-fuel that the Kolkata Police is using has a high content of cetane. While cetane content in this bio-fuel is 64, it is not more than 53 in other bio-fuel. Cetane works as an anti-knocking agent and provides better lubrication

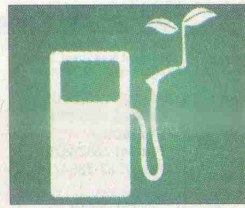
to the engine. It also has a high concentration of oxygen, which helps in better combustion."

He said that compared to normal petroleum diesel, which has a flashpoint of 66°C, palm-based diesel has a flash point of 158°C. Any fuel which has a flash point over 120°C is considered to be non-explosive and hence can be stored without any explosive licence.

The sulphur content and carbon content in palm-based fuel is also considerably lower than that of its petroleum based counterparts.

A senior officer of the Kolkata Police said the Union government has suggested that vehicles registered before 2005 should use 20 per cent bio-fuel with 80 per cent petro-fuel. This is because in vehicles registered before 2005 the pipes are mainly made of rubber. "We are using 50 per cent bio-fuel with 50 per cent petro-fuel because firstly the palm-fuel has a high content of anti-knocking agent and lubricant and secondly our jeeps are new."

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	DIESEL	BIO FUEL
Price	Rs 34 approx (premium)	Rs 31.50
Oxygen content	Lower	11 per cent
Sulphur content	500 mg/kg	0.83 mg/kg
Carbon content	0.3 mg/kg	0.01 mg/kg'
Flash point	66°C	158°C