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Peaches and cream look for your taxis?

The transport department has finally narrowed down its choice of colour that the city's quintessential black and yellow taxis will eventually sport. Peaches and cream and nut brown was the colour combination picked by Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil, transport minister, during a recent meeting.

The final deciding authority is, however, the Mumbai Metropolitan Regional Transport Authority (MMRTA) comprising bureaucrats from the department and officials from Regional Transport Offices.

Transport Commissioner Dilip Jadhav said, "The selection of the new colour scheme is at a premature stage. But, if everything goes well then the new scheme will be finalised in three months." Also, amendments will have to be made in the Maharashtra Motor Vehicles Act stating the new colour of taxis, which will also take time.

Initially, the colour scheme will be applicable only to new taxis. Existing taxis will change to the new colour combination gradually.

There were other colour schemes suggested like sky blue with yellow on the roof, all yellow, yellow with a brown stripe, and yellow with black roof.

The transport department had asked JJ School of Arts to decide the new colour scheme. But, Vikhe-Patil wanted his own department to propose options.

The taxi union is demanding that the transport department quickly decide on a colour scheme as those buying new taxis can get the colour changed immediately. Newer models of taxis will be entering the market as the transport department has been scrapping all illegal taxis plying on the roads.

"As it is, drivers whose taxis have been scrapped have to buy new ones. So, the transport department should fix the new scheme so that drivers will be spared the additional cost of re-painting the taxis," A L Quadros, general secretary, Mumbai Taxi Union said.

For the money spent on the new colour scheme, the taxi drivers and owners will get advertising rights on the vehicle's body. The department has also proposed global positioning systems for all taxis.

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