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Govt agrees to fare panel, taxi rides may get costlier

Manthan K Mehta, TNN Apr 12, 2012, 06.04AM IST

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Tags: [taxi rides](#) | [Shailesh Sharma](#) | [Govt](#) | [fare panel](#)

MUMBAI: Hailing a cab in the city may become costlier as the state government has agreed to form a new taxi trade fare committee.

The moves came after a taxi union threatened to go on a strike from May 2.

Shailesh Sharma, secretary in the transport department, said: "We agreed to consider the demand after the taxi union claimed that the formula devised by the Hakim committee was 15 years old and had to be replaced."

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A L Quadros, general secretary of the Mumbai Taximen Union, welcomed the government move but remained non-committal on withdrawal of the strike. "The state has agreed in principle to appoint the committee. However, a final decision on withdrawing the May 2 strike call will be taken only after a notification is issued."

An industry expert said the natural outcome of setting up such a committee would be a hike in taxi fares.

The taxi union had also demanded a hike in the base fare—from Rs 17 to Rs 20—and a Rs 2 increase for every subsequent kilometre. "We hope the trade fare committee will do justice to our needs," said Quadros.

The union demanded the formation of a new trade fare panel on the grounds that the dynamics of the taxi business had changed due to a steady increase in the cost of living, higher maintenance expenses and a steep premium for third-party insurance, etc.

Transport expert Ashok Datar said: "I am not against a new formula for taxi fares, but it should be a transparent process."

Key auto meet

Asked about the demand for a trade fare committee for autorickshaws, Shailesh Sharma,

secretary in the transport department, said: "A decision will be taken only after discussions are held with representatives of autorickshaw operators on Thursday."

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ME MUMBAIKAR (MAAZI MUMBAI)

13 Apr, 2012 05:04 AM

Are these cab and rickshaw drivers doing a favour to the govt and the public by plying on the roads? What makes them believe that tariffs should be increased keeping in mind the cost of living? And what sin has the common office goer committed that the same logic is not imposed on his employers? There are many mumbaikars who have not seen a hike in salary in years. Why are the law abiding mumbaikars being treated so fairly? The govt of maharashtra is once again bowing to the unfair demands of these cheaters and is demonstrating how spineless their governance is. And the so called opposition parties are no better. Once again 1.6 lakh autorickshaw drivers/crooks will hold a city of over 16 million to ransom.

ABC (mumbai)

12 Apr, 2012 01:37 PM

best should ply more buses. let the taxi men suffer. they have become greedy. first they increased the fares to Rs. 16/- and then to Rs. 17/-. Still they want more. after about two months they will want to increase it to Rs. 25/-, then 30/- and they will give the same excuse that it is due to increasing prices that they have to hike the rates. how long can people tolerate it. all the citizens should boycott the cabbies. Let them suffer.

canaqa (mumbai)

12 Apr, 2012 08:15 AM

bad news for the taximen. already most taxis operate of CNG which gives them cost per km @ Rs.2.5 to3 maximum. with this proposed increase, many travellers will use taxis only in unavoidable circumstances thereby in reality reducing the taximan's business earnings. best of luck for them & sharad rao, who is the chief instigator.