

NHRC'S ADVISORY TO CENTRE, STATES ON TRUCK DRIVERS' RIGHTS

Relevant for: Indian Economy | Topic: Infrastructure: Roads

For better life: The advisory sought restrooms and hotels at every 40 km on National and State highways. PTI-

The National Human Rights Commission on Tuesday said it had issued an advisory to the Centre, States and Union Territories to protect the rights of truck drivers. "The Commission has observed that despite making significant contribution to the economy of the nation, the rightful entitlements of the truck drivers do not get adequate attention, as the truck business remains fragmented and unorganised," the statement read.

The advisory, sent by the NHRC Secretary-General to the Secretaries of Ministries and departments and Chief Secretaries of States, covered four areas — protection from exploitation, provision of amenities, provision of socio-economic security and physical and mental well-being. Among the recommendations was an amendment to the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988, to make the purchase of personal accident cover of at least Rs. 15 lakh each for the driver, co-driver and helper of a commercial truck mandatory. It recommended that drivers, co-drivers and helpers who are injured or incapacitated in road accidents should be given cashless medical treatment. The advisory said rest stops and lay-byes with parking areas, rest rooms, toilets, restaurants with reasonable rates, mechanic shops and doctors' clinics should be constructed every 40 km on National Highways and at prominent locations along State highways.

"Launch a group insurance scheme providing for life as well as health cover for truck drivers on payment of a nominal subsidised subscription; Minimise physical interface between truck drivers and law enforcement agencies by providing online facilities..." it said.

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