

Number plate reader to detect trucks with undeclared goods

VAT dept installs reader at Ghazipur border, software trial in a few weeks

The Delhi trade and taxes department started a pilot project on the Ghazipur border to check on a real-time basis whether goods trucks entering or leaving the Capital are carrying 'declared' goods or not.

All trucks carrying goods are required to fill a form 'Delhi Sugam 2', under which the name of the trader and amount of goods have to be declared, before a truck enters the Capital.

It helps the tax department to verify the declared goods when a particular trader files tax returns.

Officials said the latest move would help the department in getting hold of defaulters.

An automatic number plate reader unit was installed at the Ghazipur border for the purpose. Officials said trial of the software would go on floors in the next few weeks, before installing a similar setup at eight other main entry points of commercial vehicles across the city.

"We have started it on a trial basis. The reader scans the number plate of the vehicle. A team of 3-4 staff has been stationed at the toll booth," said a senior Delhi government official.

"The moment the reader scans the number plate, the central server flashes on the screen whether the goods being carried in the truck have been declared or not. If not, the truck driver would have to declare about the trader to whom it would be delivered to. It hardly takes one or two minutes to fill the DS-2 form," he said.

The DS-2 form was notified by the department in September last year.

The reader would also help the department in catching trucks that do not have a pollution certificate.

"The reader will be connected to the national data server which contains pollution certificate of all national permit carriers," the official added.

The Supreme Court had on December 16 issued a slew of measures to clean up Delhi – the most polluted city in the world –and ruled that trucks not carrying cargo for the capital city will not be permitted in through its entry points at National Highways 1 (Kundli border) and 8 (Delhi-Jaipur). Trucks registered on or before 2005 shall not enter Delhi at all, it ordered.

(Hindustan Times)