

Madurai fuel stations urged to set up vehicle pollution test centres

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Madurai: There are only 18 Pollution Under Control (PUC) centres in Madurai district to test emission for 10.49 lakh vehicles including 46,776 vehicles registered as goods and passenger carrier vehicles. Most of these centres are located close to RTO offices and its sub-offices, making it difficult for commuters to access.

Following the Supreme Court order, the transport department had urged all fuel refilling stations to install PUC a couple of years ago. It did not get much traction. Officials are planning to insist more so that at least a section of the fuel stations install one.

Joint commissioner of the transport department, Madurai region (Madurai, Theni and Dindigul) Ravichandran said that there are only 32 testing centres in the region, where 16.80 lakh vehicles are being used. Fuel refilling stations and vehicles sales and services centres should come forward to install PUC centre. "To set up a centre it will take only Rs 3-4 lakh for two separate equipment for both diesel and petrol vehicles. A space of 8-metre length and 3-metre width is enough to set up the centre," he said.

A pollution certificate must be obtained for all vehicles including government transport vehicles once in six months, except for vehicles in the first year of purchase. A fine amount of Rs 10,000 can be levied for not getting the pollution certificate as per the Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Act, 2019.

"Emission certificate is hardly insisted on day to day checking conducted by traffic police of RTO officials. It is obtained only when the vehicles go for fitness certificate and application is made for driving license. With the pollution level in the air increasing, it is time to concentrate on that aspect too. As and when there is a crackdown on the certificate, people will need more testing centres," said a transport official.