

1,000 low-floor buses get cabinet nod

The Delhi cabinet on Thursday approved the proposal for 1,000 low-floor CNG buses, mostly air conditioned, under the cluster scheme. The transport department had sought the cabinet approval for the buses in accordance with a cabinet decision on May 18, in which the transport department was asked to initiate the process for procurement of additional low-floor buses. The cabinet also approved the appointment of Delhi Integrated Multi - Modal Transit System (DIMTS) as bid process manager and integrated mechanism (IM) for these proposed clusters as well, on nomination basis. DIMTS was assigned for a study on route rationalisation and hence, some of the 657 approved routes are likely to be amended or changed, the government said in a statement. The Delhi government has to augment its bus fleet to have up to 11,000 buses, as per the directions of the Supreme Court and the Delhi high court. Both the courts regularly monitor the augmentation of the fleet. Till now, the overall fleet of DTC and cluster buses has 5,460 buses. The unutilised bus depots of DTC may be used by the transport department for housing the new buses. The government also said that in the 1,000 standard-floor buses that it has been planning to procure, mechanical lifts will be installed to make them disabled-friendly. The government also said that DTC has been unable to procure 1,000 buses due to failure of tenders, owing to the clause of annual maintenance contract. 'It appears, vehicle manufacturers are more interested in selling buses rather than maintaining them on their own throughout the operating life span of the vehicle,' the government said in a statement.

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