STARRED LAQ NO. 001A TABLED BY SHRI YURI ALEMAO, MLA TO BE ANSWERED ON 09-03-2026.

TAXI DRIVERS

QUESTION	ANSWER
WILL the Minister for Transport be pleased to state:	By Shri Mauvin Godinho, Hon'ble Minister for Transport.
a) whether the Government is aware about the genuine problems faced by the traditional Taxi Operators of Goa; if so, the measures in mind to mitigate their problems; the progress made as on date in the matter of Notification of the Government dated 20/05/2025 publishing Goa Transport Aggregator Guidelines,2025;	**Answer:** The Department of Transport has initiated a series of measures to support and safeguard the interests of Goan taxi operators: 1. A dedicated counter at Dabolim Airport has been secured from the Airports Authority of India and allotted to the United Taximen Association to improve operational convenience and access for local taxi operators. 2. Similarly, counters has been obtained at the Manohar International Airport and allotted to Blue Cab Taxi Association and Shiv Warrior United Taxi Brothers Association. To reduce the financial burden on local taxi associations, the Department of Transport will bear 50 percent of the lease rent for both these counter. 3. In recognition of local stakeholders whose land was acquired for the Manohar International Airport, 164 Blue Cab taxi permits were issued to affected individuals, thereby providing a sustainable livelihood opportunity. Additional applications for 50 permits are proposed. Public Notice has been issued and applications have been received by Regional Transport Authority, Pernem.

	4. Rule 140 of the Goa Motor Vehicles Rules, 1991, was amended to exempt app-based taxi operators from mandatory installation of digital fare meters. A copy of the amended notification is enclosed as **Annexure-A.** 5. Also Public Notice dated 12/09/2025 was issued to the public stating that: (a) The operator of motor cab can purchase fare meter of Digital type with Printer and Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking Device, from any vendor provided that the device is complying with Rule 140 of Goa Motor Vehicle Rule 1991. (b) The fare meter shall be sealed by the Legal Metrology Department to indicate that the fare meter has been tested and is in working condition. 6. Vide **G.S.R. 1095(E) dated 28.11.2016, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), Government of India,** introduced **Rule 125-H**, which mandates the fitment of vehicle location tracking devices (VLTD) and emergency buttons in public service vehicles. This rule came into effect from **1st April 2018**. Initially, the Department of Transport had empanelled three vendors for the fitment of VLTDs, which inadvertently restricted taxi drivers' choices. To liberalise the system and promote competition, the empanelment was cancelled through Public Notice dated 07.10.2024, thereby allowing taxi operators to procure VLTD devices from any manufacturer compliant with

	AIS-140 standards. As a result, nearly 12 vendors have now registered on the State VLTD portal, offering better price discovery and more options to taxi owners and drivers. 7. To support the installation of digital fare meters, the Government implemented the "Goa State Public Transport Reimbursement of Cost of Digital Fare Meter 2021" scheme. Under this scheme, 2,278 taxi drivers were reimbursed a total of Rs.2.56 crore. 8. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government provided substantial relief to taxi operators by exempting motor vehicle tax and passenger tax from 1st April 2020 to 30th September 2020. This exemption amounted to Rs.16.3 crore. In addition, penalties on delayed tax payments amounting to Rs.2.74 crore were also waived off. 9. Under the Mukhyamantri Goencho Taxi Patrao Yojana, launched in collaboration with Goa Miles, 201 vehicles were proved to first-time taxi owners, enabling self-employment and ownership. 10. In May 2025, the Department of Transport published the draft Goa Transport Aggregator Guidelines 2025, aimed at balancing passenger convenience with the protection of Goan taxi drivers and owners. The key provisions include: (a) Aggregators can onboard only vehicles registered in Goa with valid taxi permits.

	(b) Only drivers holding a valid PSV (Public Service Vehicle) badge issued in Goa are permitted to operate. (c) Aggregators must pay the full government-notified fare directly to the driver or owner without any commission deductions. (d) Drivers have the freedom to operate across multiple aggregator platforms or offline, ensuring autonomy and equitable market participation. 11. The draft guidelines also provide incentives for taxi drivers and owners: (a) Reimbursement of insurance premiums up to 50 percent or ₹20,000, whichever is lower. (b) For female taxi drivers, the reimbursement is up to 100 percent or ₹30,000, whichever is lower. (c) A one-time incentive of ₹1,00,000 for female owner cum-drivers to purchase a new electric taxi. **Sub-Question:** The progress made as on date in the matter of Notification of the Government, dated 20/05/2025 publishing Goa Transport Aggregator Guidelines, 2025 **Answer**: In response to the draft Goa Transport Aggregator Guidelines, 2025, the Department has received 3,802 objections and suggestions, as well as 290 letters in support of the guidelines, urging the Government to implement them. All feedback received is currently being systematically compiled and examined for consideration by the Government before finalization and notification of the guidelines.

b) furnish copies of the suggestions received by the Government from various persons in this connection; furnish details in what manner these guidelines will help the Government to solve the problems of the Taxi Operators; whether the Government has changed its mind after going through the various suggestions received from the public, furnish details such as the name, address, vehicle Nos., No. of Taxis owned/possessed by person/s having the registration with the Department/Government for App-based Taxi Operations, as on date;	Sir, this question has multiple sub questions. For the sake of clarity, the individual responses to all sub-questions are provided below. **Sub-Question:** Furnish copies of the suggestions received by the Government from various persons in this connection; **Answer:** Provided as **Annexure -B** **Sub-Question:** Furnish details in what manner these guidelines will help the Government to solve the problems of the Taxi Operators; **Answer:** The Draft Goa Transport Aggregator Guidelines, 2025 are designed to modernize and stabilize the business environment for local taxi operators while ensuring convenience, safety, and accountability for passengers. The following measures illustrate how the guidelines address the core concerns of taxi operators in Goa: 1. The guidelines enable taxi operators to access a significantly larger pool of potential customers by facilitating better demand aggregation through app-based bookings. Traditionally, taxi services in Goa have catered primarily to tourists. However, if just 5% of the local population uses taxis daily, the annual demand from residents alone would be approximately 2,86,52,500 trips. Based on tourist arrivals in 2023 24, it is estimated that if 25% of tourist-days involve a taxi trip, it would generate an additional 1,32,45,450.5

	trips. Therefore, the total addressable market stands at 4,18,97,950 trips per year. 2. At present, a large portion of this potential demand remains untapped, as many passengers prefer the convenience of booking taxis through apps rather than approaching taxi stands and negotiating fares. In the absence of such convenience, locals prefer using self-driven vehicles and tourists opt for Rent-a-Cabs, which leads to traffic congestion, parking overflow, increased road accidents, and pollution. By regulating app-based platforms, these guidelines are expected to redirect this latent demand towards local taxi operators, thereby increasing their business. 3. The guidelines mandate that only vehicles registered in Goa with valid taxi permits and drivers with Public Service Vehicle (PSV) badges issued in Goa may operate on aggregator platforms. Aggregators must pay the full government-notified fare directly to the driver or vehicle owner without deductions or commissions. This ensures a level playing field and guarantees income protection for taxi operators. 4. Additionally, taxi drivers operating on app-based platforms are exempted from installing digital fare meters, thereby reducing compliance costs and operational burden. 5. The guidelines provide drivers with the flexibility to choose their preferred platform(s) or operate independently. This freedom ensures that drivers are

	not tied to a single aggregator and can explore multiple revenue streams, depending on passenger demand. 6. With the ability to connect with passengers digitally and in real time, the idle waiting time for taxi drivers is likely to reduce significantly. More platforms mean more chances to get bookings, which can help drivers maximize the number of trips in a day and, in turn, increase daily earnings. In summary, the guidelines create a structured framework that protects the interests of Goan taxi owners and drivers while promoting a more accessible, efficient, and environmentally responsible mode of public transport across the State. **Sub-Question:** whether the Government has changed its mind after going through the various suggestions received from the public, furnish details such as the name, address, vehicle Nos., No. of Taxis owned/possessed by person/s having the registration with the Department/Government for App-based Taxi Operations, as on date; **Answer:** The Government is currently examining all objections, suggestions, and representations received from various stakeholders regarding the Draft Goa Transport Aggregator Guidelines, 2025. As the consultation process is still ongoing, no final decision has been taken on whether any modifications will be made to the draft guidelines. The Government remains fully committed to acting in the larger public

	interest and will take an appropriate and balanced decision after due consideration of all feedback received. As of date, there are two app-based aggregators operating in the State, namely Goa Miles and Goa Taxi App. A total of 5,800 taxis have registered for app-based operations with these platforms. The details such as name, address, vehicle numbers, and number of taxis owned/possessed by each person registered for app based taxi operations are enclosed as **Annexure-C**
c) whether the Government will come up with a fresh policy by withdrawing the last Notification dated 20/05/2025, if so, furnish details of fresh policy and whether it is drafted;	Notification dated 20/05/2025 is under consideration. The matter will be placed before State Transport Authority for further decision.
d) whether the 'Bharat taxi' app will be introduced in Goa and whether such communication has been done by the Centre; if so; furnish details of the communication; and	No such App is introduced by this Department.
e) whether any cab aggregators are banned in Goa, if so, furnish names of these aggregators and whether there are incidents wherein such aggregators are illegally operating in Goa, furnish details thereof?	No Sir.