

**STARRED LAQ NO 002B TABLED BY SHRI. CARLOS FERREIRA, MLA  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06/08/2025**

**“SHORTFALLS IN PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN THE STATE”**

<b>QUESTION</b>	<b>ANSWER</b>
*002B WILL the Minister for Transport be pleased to state:	By Shri Mauvin Godinho Hon’ble Minister for Transport
(a) the taluka-wise details of gaps in public bus frequency and coverage, especially after 7 pm, and the steps taken to address lack of late-night services and improve first-and last- mile connectivity for commuters, including the elderly and infirm;	<p>Sir, the taluka-wise status of night bus services is enclosed at <b>Annexure “A”</b>.</p> <p>Public bus services are demand-responsive in nature. In certain rural and low-density areas, particularly after 07:00PM, passenger footfall tends to be limited, posing operational and financial challenges. Nevertheless, to ensure equitable access, the KTCL has taken the following measures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Obligatory services are operated in remote areas even in cases of low ridership, to safeguard essential connectivity.</li> <li>2. KTCL operates night services beyond commercially viable hours, reflecting its public service mandate.</li> <li>3. Real-time vehicle tracking and route monitoring systems have been introduced to optimise schedules and improve service reliability.</li> </ol>
(b) the current status of synchronization between State-run Kadamba Transport Corporation (KTC) and privately operated buses; the measures taken to ensure seamless transfers, integrated ticketing and uniformity in service standards across operators;	<p>KTCL and private bus operators enrolled under the Mhaji Bus Scheme 2025 have been integrated under a common ticketing platform. Electronic Ticketing Machines (ETMs) have been provided free of cost to all participating private bus operators, along with the software subscription. The cost of each ETM device is <b>₹16,000</b>, and the software subscription fee of <b>₹350 per month</b> is fully subsidised under the scheme.</p> <p>The Smart Transit Card and Smart Transit Pass issued under the scheme are interoperable and can be used seamlessly across both KTCL and private buses, ensuring convenience and fare uniformity.</p> <p>To further improve commuter access and visibility of services, KTCL has developed a</p>

	<p>passenger-facing mobile application called “Goa on the Go” for booking tickets and accessing service information. Private buses enrolled under the Mhaji Bus Scheme 2025 will be integrated onto this app at no cost to the bus owners.</p> <p>In order to avoid timing overlaps and ensure optimal utilisation of public transport services, route schedules of KTCL and private buses will be streamlined and coordinated.</p>
<p>(c) the number of Government and private buses operating in the State as on date, the increase in fleet strength since 2019-20 and the extent to which this expansion has met the public transport demand in both urban and rural areas;</p>	<p>As on date, a total of 624 Government buses are operating in the State, comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 483 diesel-owned buses</li> <li>• 48 electric buses under the Smart City Mission</li> <li>• 93 electric buses operated on a hired basis</li> </ul> <p>In addition, 852 private buses are currently operational across the State.</p> <p>The increase in fleet strength since 2019–20 is detailed in <b>Annexure “B”</b>.</p> <p>This expansion has improved the availability of public transport services in both urban and rural areas. New routes have been introduced to strengthen connectivity, including interstate services to Akkalkot, Mumbai, Pune, Hyderabad, Shirdi, Bangalore, Muddebihal, and Hospet, as well as intrastate routes such as Bogmalo Beach to Vasco-Da-Gama and Mapusa to Tuem via Arambol.</p>
<p>(d) the reasons for the limited enrollment of private buses under schemes like the Mhaji Bus Scheme, the number of buses enrolled and the steps taken to incentivize greater participation and improve scheme effectiveness; and</p>	<p>The Mhaji Bus Scheme 2025 was formally notified by the Transport Department on 15th May 2025. As on 30/07/2025, 11 private buses have been enrolled under the scheme. Additionally, 136 private bus owners have collected application forms, and many are in the process of submitting the required documentation for enrolment.</p> <p>Given the recent launch of the scheme, enrolment is progressing steadily as operators familiarise themselves with the scheme features and complete the onboarding process.</p>

	<p>To promote participation and facilitate implementation, the following steps have been taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inauguration of the scheme at Ravindra Bhavan, Sanquelim on 28th June 2025</li> <li>• Regional awareness programme conducted in Sanguem on 3rd July 2025</li> <li>• Display of banners and posters at major KTCL bus stands</li> <li>• Distribution of pamphlets and application forms directly to private bus operators</li> <li>• Social media campaigns and press briefings for broader outreach</li> <li>• Continuous engagement with private operators to explain benefits and address queries</li> </ul> <p>The Department remains committed to scaling up participation under the Mhaji Bus Scheme through sustained outreach and facilitation efforts.</p>
<p>(e) whether the Government has conducted any recent studies or surveys to assess commuter satisfaction, public transport usage patterns and the impact of inadequate public transport on rising private vehicle ownership in the State; if so, furnish copies of such reports and action taken on their findings?</p>	<p>No formal survey or study has been commissioned recently to correlate public transport usage patterns with trends in private vehicle ownership. However, KTCL undertakes regular route-wise surveys and passenger feedback exercises before introducing new services, particularly in remote areas.</p> <p>In addition, an official WhatsApp helpline (9284862144) has been made available and is prominently displayed inside all KTCL buses to enable commuters to submit suggestions or grievances. These inputs are periodically reviewed and taken into consideration for service improvements.</p>