

## RISING POLLUTION

Of the total **19 lakh** vehicles in the city, **74 per cent** are two-wheelers and **15 per cent** are private four-wheelers

For every **1,000 people**, Pune has **473 private vehicles** which means that every family in the city has two vehicles

**16 buses** serve **1 lakh people**

Vehicles plying on pucca roads blow **6,456 tonne dust** every year while the dust raised by vehicles plying on kuccha roads is **1,229 tonne** every year

(PMC ENVIRONMENT STATUS REPORT 2009-10)  
(REPORTS WRITTEN UNDER THE AEGIS OF CENTRE FOR  
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# How Pune is done in by poor public transport

The poor public transport is largely to blame for the city's burgeoning traffic population.

The Regional Transport Office figures show that till December 2009, the number of registered vehicles was 18,91,929, not including the six lakh vehicles in Pimpri-Chinchwad.

In Pune, over 74 per cent of the total vehicles, 14,10,821 are two-wheelers. Cars and jeeps account for about 14 per cent of the total vehicles. In sharp contrast, the number of PMPML buses is a mere 1,300.

With such a high number of private vehicles on the city's roads, Pune is already among the most pol-

luted cities in the country.

"As of now, the PMPML runs about 1,300 buses in Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad area, while the actual requirement is 2,500 considering the new areas added to the city limits. The PMPML has a fleet of 1,554 buses of which 321 are hired from contractors. With JNNURM funds coming, we hope to get 500 new buses soon," said top PMPML officials.

However, the purchase of buses under JNNURM is stuck as opinion has been divided over the type of buses to be bought. While the standing committee insists on buying buses with doors on the left, the

PMPML wanted to those with doors on both sides, since the bus stops in PCMC area are on the left.

"In such a situation, people have to opt for private vehicles. Most would prefer to use the public transport if there is good service and frequency," said college student Tejas Deshpande.

The large number of vehicles have given rise to many problems, among them accidents on city roads and the highways that pass through Pune. The number of mishaps in 2009 almost doubled since 2000. There were 533 (288 fatal and 245 serious) mishaps in 2000 which in 2009 rose to 906 (383 fatal and 523 seri-

ous). While 49 per cent accidents in 2000 (263 accidents) were due to overspeeding, the number increased to 59 per cent in 2009 (540 accidents).

Vehicular congestion has also increased the air pollution in Pune which was ranked 69th in the list of 91 most polluted cities by the ministry of environment and forests in 2009. The average PM10 level (suspended particulate matter) is 82 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m<sup>3</sup>) while the permissible limit of Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) is 60 ug/m<sup>3</sup> as per the ambient air quality monitoring standards.