At the outset the Chairman, STA, welcomed all the members of the STA to the 291st S.T.A. meeting.

The proceeding of the 290th meeting of State Transport Authority held on 13.01.2020 circulated among all the Members vide this Office Memo No.991/TC dated 20.01.2020 is confirmed as no objections received.

Action taken by the Chairman, STA, Secretary, STA and Under Secretary, STA for the period from 13.01.2020 to 18.02.2020 are approved.

1. POLICY DECISION:

1.1 RENEWAL OF STAGE CARRIAGE PERMANENT PERMIT.

It is noticed that some of the stage carriage permanent permit holders are filing application for renewal of permit even more than one year prior to expiry of permit. Soon after filing of application for renewal of permit, they are insisting to get the permanent permit renewed although they are permitted to operate stage carriages in the existing route and timing till validity of existing permit held by them.

Section 81 (2) of M.V. Act, 1988 provides that “A permit may be renewed on an application made not less than fifteen days before the date of its expiry”.
Above provision is silent regarding upper time limit before which application for renewal of permit can be made. If a permit is renewed after few months of issue, taking advantage of such situation, the permit holder may discontinue operation of bus service causing inconvenience to travelling public. Intention of legislature is that there must be reasonable time limit before which a permit can be renewed so that there will be no disruption in providing continuous service to the commuting public in the given route.

Considering provision of statute and taking into consideration reasonableness in filing application for renewal of stage carriage permit, after due deliberation, keeping in view interest of travelling public, it was resolved that an application for renewal of permit can be made within three months before date of its expiry and not prior to it.

1.2 RENEWAL / CANCELLATION OF STAGE CARRIAGE PERMIT.

It was brought to the notice of STA that after availing permanent stage carriage permit, some of the permit holders are (1) not operating the bus in the given route and timing, (2) kept the vehicle off road for more than one year causing disruption of service which is detrimental to commuting public and (3) not paying tax due.

In order to prevent such type of non-operation of bus services and keeping in view interest of travelling public, it was resolved that:

(i) Where the vehicle for which permanent stage carriage permit was issued in a route / routes had been declared off road for a period of one year during currency of permit in different spells, renewal of such permit shall not be considered. Besides steps will also be taken for cancellation of permit before its expiry under Section 86 of M.V. Act, 1988. The permit holder will furnish / upload self-declaration in Annexure-C at the time of making application for renewal of permit.

(ii) Where permanent stage carriage permit was issued on any interstate route and not countersigned by reciprocating State within three months from the date of issue or within such further time as may be granted by STA, renewal of such permit shall not be considered. Besides steps will also be taken for cancellation of permit before its expiry under Section 86 of M.V. Act, 1988. The permit holder will furnish /
upload self-declaration in Annexure-C at the time of making application for renewal of permit.

(iii) Where the vehicle for which permanent stage carriage permit was issued on inter-region / inter-state routes and not plying in the given route, renewal of such permit shall not be considered. Besides steps will also be taken for cancellation of permit before its expiry under Section 86 of M.V. Act, 1988. The permit holder will furnish / upload self-declaration in Annexure-C at the time of making application for renewal of permit.

(iv) Where tax in respect of vehicle for which permanent stage carriage permit was issued in a route / routes was not paid regularly, renewal of such permit shall not be considered. The permit holder will furnish / upload self-declaration in Annexure-C at the time of making application for renewal of permit. Besides steps will also be taken for cancellation of permit before its expiry under Section 86 of M.V. Act, 1988.

1.3 FORMAT FOR SELF-DECLARATION BY APPLICANT FOR GRANT OF STAGE CARRIAGE PERMIT.

(A) As per decision taken earlier by STA, at the time of filing application for grant of permanent stage carriage permit, the owner will have to submit self-declaration regarding tax payment position, pendency of VCR / e-challan and other dues and criminal cases pending or disposed of etc. However, no detailed guideline was evolved by STA in this regard. After due deliberation, it was resolved to formulate self-declaration format which will be submitted by the applicant along with application for every permanent permit failing which such application shall not be considered.

The self-declaration proforma is annexed as Annexure-A.

(B) SUBMISSION OF ADDITIONAL SELF-DECLARATION.

In cases where a vehicle was involved in any offence between date of application and date of consideration and VCR / e-challan drawn to that effect under Section 192-A of M.V. Act, 1988, the applicant will furnish additional self-declaration in Annexure-B mentioning such offence on the date of consideration.

Above stipulations will be applicable for single and multiple applications.
(C) SUBMISSION OF SELF-DECLARATION FOR RENEWAL OF STAGE CARRIAGE PERMIT AND COUNTERSIGNATURE.

At the time of filing of application for renewal of stage carriage permit and countersignature of permit issued by reciprocating State, the applicant will have to submit / upload self-declaration in Annexure-C.

1.4 FINANCIAL STABILITY CRITERIA.

To adjudge financial stability of a stage carriage operator, application for stage carriage permit shall be accompanied by Solvency Certificate or Bank Guarantee of Rs.99,000/- valid for one year issued in the name of applicant.

In lieu of above, the applicant may submit self-attested copy of proof of payment of income tax more than Rs.99,000/- by him/her in the previous financial year.

1.5 ASSIGNMENT OF MARKS TO BS-VI STAGE CARRIAGE:

In moving a step forward to minimize air pollution in the State, it was resolved that extra five marks will be given to BS-VI buses compared to BS-IV and BS-III buses while adjudging comparative merit of applicants for grant of stage carriage permit over and above of the marks given to equivalent type of stage carriages.

1.6 MODIFICATION OF CRITERIA FOR GRANT OF STAGE CARRIAGE PERMIT.

The STA in its 279th meeting held on 17.06.2015 resolved that:

"4.1 (C) (b) Plying of vehicle by the applicant violating permit conditions, plying any vehicle without permit on any unauthorized route, making unauthorized trip, Vehicle Check Reports drawn / reports submitted to that effect will be considered irrespective of the fact that the VCR was closed on composition of offences. Five marks for each violation will be deducted for above offences."

The STA in its 287th meeting held on 22.01.2019 resolved that:

"3.9. Whenever it is detected that a bus operating as a stage carriage without permit under Section 192 (A) of M.V. Act, 1988, the bus will be debarred for a stage carriage permit for minimum two years from the date of detection of such offence."

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After due deliberation, it was resolved to modify the criteria in the following manner to make it more objective.

(a) Application for grant of stage carriage permit shall not be considered in respect of a vehicle which is plying (1) without permit, (2) making unauthorized trips, (3) as stage carriage under special permit / contract carriage within one year prior to the date of consideration of application. In such cases no stage carriage / contract carriage / temporary permit will be granted to said offending vehicle within one year from the date of consideration of application prospectively irrespective of the fact that the VCR / e-challan was closed.

(b) In cases where any of the vehicle owned by the applicant (except the vehicle covered under clause (a) above), plying (1) without permit, (2) making unauthorized trips, (3) as stage carriage under special permit / contract carriage permit, five marks for each VCR / e-challan drawn within one year from the date of consideration of application will be deducted for every VCR / e-challan whether pending or closed in respect of stage carriage for which grant of permit is under consideration. Commission of above offences will be considered as past performance of a stage carriage operator.

1.7 RESTRICTION ON GRANT OF PERMIT TO VEHICLES HAVING OTHER STATE REGISTRATION NUMBERS.

Previously assignment of Odisha Registration mark to other State vehicles was done after getting confirmation from concerned Registering Authority in writing regarding genuineness of NOC issued under Section 48 of M.V. Act, 1988 for which the process of assignment was getting delayed. VAHAN 4 application has been rolled out in Odisha for last two years where there is facility to apply and issue of NOC online which can also be verified online. The process of assignment of Odisha Registration number has been made easier.

In order to regulate plying of other State vehicles in Odisha, it was resolved that no permit shall be granted by STA / RTAs to other State vehicles without assignment of Odisha Registration number.
1.8 PREPARATION OF E-AGENDA FOR STA MEETING.

In order to bring meeting of STA to paperless mode, it was decided to prepare agenda of next meeting of STA online and the same will be circulated among members through e-mail. The agenda will be viewed online during STA meeting. All the members are requested to furnish their e-mail Id in advance to Secretary, STA for circulation of agenda to them for subsequent meetings.

1.9 RESERVATION OF SEATS IN STAGE CARRIAGES.

There is consistent public demand to reserve seats in stage carriages for women, senior citizen and person with disabilities.

This issue was earlier placed before STA and it was also decided to reserve two seats each for person with disabilities, to seats for senior citizens and six seats for women in every stage carriage.

In this regard, a threadbare discussion was made. It was unanimously resolved to reiterate earlier decision of STA regarding reservation in seats in stage carriages. Accordingly, it is decided that two seats will be kept reserved for senior citizens, two seats will be kept reserved for person with disabilities and six seats will be reserved for women in each stage carriage which shall be one of the condition of permit.

1.10 DELEGATION OF POWERS TO RTA TO COUNTERSIGN PERMITS GRANTED BY RECIPROCATING STATES IN RESPECT OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION BUSES.

Instances have come to the notice of STA that other state educational institution buses carrying students and staff are plying in Odisha without getting the permit countersigned by STA / RTA violating provisions contained under Section 88 (1) of M.V. Act, 1988. For plying in Odisha those vehicles may obtain temporary permit online in e-checkpost application developed by NIC or may get the permit countersigned by concerned Secretary, RTA for its operation in Odisha.

In order to facilitate movement of other State Educational Institution buses in Odisha, it was decided to delegate the powers in favour of all Secretaries, RTAs to countersign such permit issued by STA / RTA of reciprocating states following due process of law.
1.11 REVIEW OF STAGE CARRIAGE PERMITS GRANTED BY STA.

It is observed that there is no review mechanism in STA as to whether permit granted by STA was issued or lifted by the grantee within the period stipulated in the grant order which is essential for operation of stage carriage services on different routes in the interest of travelling public.

After due deliberation it was decided that:

(a) Order of grant of permit will be communicated to the grantee by Speed Post within seven days of issue of proceeding / grant order to lift the permit within thirty days on depositing requisite fee and fulfillment of other statutory conditions.

(b) It was resolved to delegate the power of revocation of grant order in favour of Chairman, STA.

In case the grantee fails to lift the permit within the period stipulated above, the Chairman, STA will take decision for revocation of grant order as per power delegated.

It was decided that henceforth above information will be furnished by Permit Section for discussion in next STA meeting.

(c) For interstate routes after issue of permit, the permit holder was given ninety days time to get the permit from Reciprocating State. In case the permit is not countersigned by STA of Reciprocating State on application made by grantee for some reason or other, the grantee will intimate the STA regarding non-grant of countersignature and further action will be taken by STA. In case the grantee failed to get the permit countersigned or intimated STA the reason for which it was not countersigned within the period stipulated above, the file will be put up for cancellation of permit by STA. Permit Section will put up the pending cases regularly in respect of which copy of countersignature is not received from permit holder or reciprocating state.
2. CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF STAGE CARRIAGE PERMIT ON INTERSTATE ROUTES.

2.1 PARADEEP TO TATA AND BACK.

Pursuant to the advertisement published in daily Newspaper "The Samaj", "Dharitri" and "The Times of India" on 05.02.2020, one application filed by Mrs. Tulasi Mallick, owner of vehicle No.OD05N-1941 for grant of permanent permit in the aforesaid route.

The applicant is represented by Advocate Shri J.N. Mohanty. He stated that he will file declaration today which has not been submitted at the time of making application.

He has submitted the Tax Clearance Certificate and told that the applicant is single applicant in the above route. Further, he stated that the applicant has submitted three applications i.e. for the route Paradeep to Tata, Joda to Kolkata and Bhubaneswar to Sareikela. According to him, the applicant is single applicant for the route Paradeep to Tata and Joda to Kolkata. But she is interested to obtain permit in the route Paradeep to Tata if considered by authority. Hence, he requested to withdraw the applications submitted by the applicant in the routes Joda-Kolkata and Bhubaneswar-Sareikela. The applicant has submitted self-declaration.

As per VAHAN data there was no VCR drawn against vehicle OD05N-1941.

There is no objection. It was decided to grant permanent stage carriage permit to Mrs. Tulasi Mallick, owner of vehicle No.OD05N-1941 in the interstate route Paradeep to Tata to perform single trip daily for a period of five years, as Deluxe Non-AC Sleeper subject to verification of original documents submitted by her. The permit is valid subject to grant of countersignature by STA, Jharkhand. The permit holder will get the permit countersigned within 90 days failing which the permit is liable to be canceled. The grantee shall lift the permit within a period of thirty days from the date of communication failing which the grant order shall deem to be revoked. Before issue of permit, tax payment position, audit and VCR clearance should be obtained and it should be ensured that the vehicle was not off-road on the date of application and on the date of consideration.
2.2 JODA TO KOLKATA AND BACK

Pursuant to the advertisement published in daily Newspaper “The Samaj”, “Dharitri” and “The Times of India” on 05.02.2020, one application filed by Mrs. Tulasi Mallick, owner of vehicle No.OD05N-1941 for grant of permanent permit in the aforesaid route.

The applicant is represented by Advocate Shri J.N. Mohanty. He stated that, the applicant wants to withdraw the application for above route as her case has been considered for issue of permanent permit in the route Paradeep to Tata and back. Application filed by Mrs. Tulasi Mallick is rejected as withdrawn.

It was resolved to notify the route in the news paper inviting applications for grant of Permanent Permit to select deserving operator for affording opportunity to all intending operators in the interest of equal opportunity and fair play, so that latest model new vehicle will be offered by the prospective applications which would be beneficial for the public at large.

2.3 BARGARH TO KOLKATA AND BACK

Pursuant to the advertisement published in daily Newspaper “The Samaj”, “Dharitri” and “The Times of India” on 05.02.2020, following applications are received for grant of permanent permit in the aforesaid route.

1. Shri Ratikanta Parida, owner of vehicle No.OR22K-7727.
2. Shri Birendra Kumar Sahu, owner of vehicle No.OD05AT-7165.

Applicant Shri Ratikanta Parida, owner of vehicle No.OR22K-7727 is represented by Advocate Shri H.P. Mohanty. However, according to him, he will produce the bank guarantee instead of solvency certificate if his case will be considered for issue of permanent permit in the aforesaid route.

As per VAHAN data there was one VCR drawn against vehicle OR22K-7727 under Section 183, 177 and 184 on 07.03.2019 which was disposed of and offences compounded.

Shri Ratikanta Parida has not submitted Solvency / Bank Guarantee as required under Section 71 (3) (d) (i) of M.V Act 1988 to adjudge his merit. His application is therefore rejected.
Applicant Shri Birendra Kumar Sahu, owner of vehicle No.OD05AT-7165 is represented by Advocate Shri Pravakar Behera. He stated that he had submitted self-declaration as required as per advertisement issued by STA. But he has not submitted tax clearance certificate and stated that the same can be verified online.

The applicant has submitted self-declaration and Bank Guarantee of Rs.99,000/-. As per VAHAN data there was one VCR drawn against vehicle OD05AT-7165 under Section 177 and 192-A on 18.11.2019 which was disposed of and offences compounded. Special Permit No.OR/99/SPL/2019/4535 dated 06.11.2019 was issued by STA to vehicle OD05AT-7165 valid from 15.11.2019 to 28.11.2019. Five marks has been deducted for drawal of VCR under Section 192-A against applicant's vehicle.

Based on the evaluation criteria, in terms of model of vehicle, type of facilities in bus, Shri Birendra Kumar Sahu, owner of vehicle No.OD05AT-7165 secured 80 marks and ranked 1st.

There is no objection. It was decided to grant permanent stage carriage permit to Shri Birendra Kumar Sahu, owner of vehicle No.OD05AT-7165 in the interstate route Bargarh to Kolkata to perform single trip daily for a period of five years, as Deluxe AC Sleeper subject to verification of original documents submitted by him. The permit is valid subject to grant of countersignature by STA, West Bengal. The permit holder will get the permit countersigned within 90 days failing which the permit is liable to be canceled. The grantee shall lift the permit within a period of thirty days from the date of communication failing which the grant order shall deem to be revoked. Before issue of permit, tax payment position, audit and VCR clearance should be obtained and it should be ensured that the vehicle was not off-road on the date of application and on the date of consideration.

2.4 PURI TO ASANSOL AND BACK

Pursuant to the advertisement published in daily Newspaper "The Samaj", "Dharitri" and "The Times of India" on 05.02.2020, following applications are received for grant of permanent permit in the aforesaid route.

1. Sri Deep Prakash Periwal, owner of vehicle No. OD01AD-3787.
2. Sri Puneet Sahoo, owner of vehicle No. OD05AW-7165.

The applicant Sri Deep Prakash Periwal, owner of vehicle No. OD01AD-3787 is represented by Advocate Shri H. P. Mohanty. He has not submitted solvency certificate and stated that he will produce the bank guarantee if his case will be considered for grant of permanent permit on the above route.

Sri Deep Prakash Periwal has not submitted Solvency / Bank Guarantee as required under Section 71 (3) (d) (i) of M.V Act 1988 to adjudge his merit. His application is therefore rejected.

As per VAHAN data no VCRs drawn against vehicle OD01AD-3787 in Odisha.

Applicant Sri Puneet Sahoo, owner of vehicle No. OD05AW-7165 is represented by Advocate Shri Pravakar Behera. He stated that he has submitted self-declaration as required as per advertisement made by STA. But he has not submitted tax clearance certificate and stated that the same can be verified online. He stated that the applicant has got a brand new VOLVO Bus of 2020 model whereas the vehicle of co-applicant is of 2019 model. Hence preference may be given to him for consideration of issue of permanent permit.

The applicant has submitted self-declaration and Bank Guarantee of Rs.99,000/-.

As per VAHAN data no VCRs drawn against vehicle OD05AW-7165.

Based on the evaluation criteria, in terms of model of vehicle, type of facilities in bus, Sri Puneet Sahoo, owner of vehicle No. OD05AW-7165 secured 110 marks and ranked 1st.

There is no objection. It was decided to grant permanent stage carriage permit to Sri Puneet Sahoo, owner of vehicle No. OD05AW-7165 (VOLVO) in the interstate route Puri to Asansol to perform single trip daily for a period of five years, as Deluxe AC subject to verification of original documents submitted by him. The permit is valid subject to grant of countersignature by STA, West Bengal. The permit holder will get the permit countersigned within 90 days failing which the permit is liable to be canceled. The grantee shall lift the permit within a period of thirty days from the date of communication failing which the grant order shall deem to be revoked. Before issue of
permit, tax payment position, audit and VCR clearance should be obtained and it should be ensured that the vehicle was not off-road on the date of application and on the date of consideration.

2.5 BHUBANESWAR TO SARAIKELA AND BACK

Pursuant to the advertisement published in daily Newspaper “The Samaj”, “Dharitri” and “The Times of India” on 05.02.2020, following applications are received for grant of permanent permit in the aforesaid route.

1. Mrs. Tulasi Mallick, owner of vehicle OD05N-1941.
2. Sri Tushar Mohapatra, owner of vehicle OD11P-3399.
4. Sri Deep Prakash Periwal, owner of vehicle OD01AD-3787.
5. Sri Digambar Panda, owner of vehicle OD33U-4544.
6. Sri Satyanarayan Das, owner of vehicle OD05D-5484.

Applicant Mrs. Tulasi Mallick, owner of vehicle OD05N-1941 is represented by Advocate Shri J.N. Mohanty. He stated that he wants to withdraw her application. Permanent permit has been granted in her favour in the route Paradeep to Tata in respect of self-same vehicle. Her application is rejected as withdrawn.

As per VAHAN data there was no VCR drawn against vehicle OD05N-1941.

Applicant Sri Tushar Mohapatra, owner of vehicle OD11P-3399 is represented by Advocate Shri H.P. Mohanty. He has submitted self-declaration and not submitted Bank Guarantee / Solvency Certificate.

As per VAHAN data there was no VCR drawn against vehicle OD11P-3399.

Sri Tushar Mohapatra, owner of vehicle OD11P-3399 has not submitted Solvency / Bank Guarantee as required under Section 71 (3) (d) (i) of M.V Act 1988 to adjudge his merit. His application is rejected.

Applicant Sri Deep Prakash Periwal, owner of vehicle OD01AA-1717 and OD01AD-3787 is represented by Advocate Shri H.P. Mohanty. He stated that the above named applicant has applied for obtaining permanent permit in the above route in
respect of his two vehicles. He has not submitted the Tax Clearance Certificate in respect of his two vehicles as the same can be verified from online. As regards, submission of solvency certificate, he stated that he will produce the Bank Guarantee later.

As per VAHAN data no VCRs drawn against vehicle OD01AD-3787 in Odisha.

As per VAHAN data there was one VCR drawn against vehicle OD01AA-1717 in other State under Section 192-A and one VCR drawn by RTO, Puri under Section 181, 183-1 of M.V. Act, 1988.

Sri Deep Prakash Periwal has not submitted Solvency / Bank Guarantee as required under Section 71 (3) (d) (i) of M.V Act 1988 to adjudge his merit. He wants to withdraw above two applications. Hence it was resolved to reject above two applications of Sri Periwal as withdrawn.

Applicant Sri Digambar Panda, owner of vehicle OD33U-4544 is represented by Advocate Shri Pravakar Behera. He has submitted self-declaration and Bank Guarantee of Rs.99,000/-. He stated that the applicant has fulfilled all requirements as per advertisement for consideration of issue of permanent permit in respect of the vehicle of applicant.

On verification of VAHAN data it is found that one VCR was drawn against vehicle OD33U-4544 of applicant by RTO, Nayagarh on 20.06.2019 punishable under Section 192-A of M.V. Act, 1988 for which five marks has been deducted. Special permit was issued to said vehicle valid from 17.06.2019 to 22.06.2019 during which the VCR was drawn.

Based on the evaluation criteria, in terms of model of vehicle, type of facilities in bus, Sri Digambar Panda, owner of vehicle OD33U-4544 secured 60 marks and ranked 1st.

Applicant Sri Satyanarayan Das, owner of vehicle OD05D-5484 is represented by Sri Rabi Narayan Das. He has not submitted the self-declaration regarding pending of VCR, tax etc. But, he stated that he has mentioned the same in his application. The
same was verified and found that he has mentioned the same in his application. He has submitted Solvency Certificate of Rs.4,00,000/- issued by Revenue Officer, Bhadrak.

As per VAHAN data there was one VCR drawn against vehicle OD05D-5484 under Section 183(2) by Police (UPD, Cuttack) of M.V. Act, 1988.

Based on the evaluation criteria, in terms of model of vehicle, type of facilities in bus, Sri Satyanarayan Das, owner of vehicle OD05D-5484 secured 30 marks and ranked 2nd.

It was decided to grant permanent stage carriage permit to Digambar Panda, owner of vehicle OD33U-4544 in the interstate route Bhubaneswar to Saraikela to perform single trip daily for a period of five years, as Deluxe AC Sleeper subject to verification of original documents submitted by him. The permit is valid subject to grant of countersignature by STA, Jharkhand. The permit holder will get the permit countersigned within 90 days failing which the permit is liable to be canceled. The grantee shall lift the permit within a period of thirty days from the date of communication failing which the grant order shall deem to be revoked. Before issue of permit, tax payment position, audit and VCR clearance should be obtained and it should be ensured that the vehicle was not off-road on the date of application and on the date of consideration.

2.6 ASKA TO ASANSOL VIA- BALIPADAR, BUGUDA, POLSARA, KHALIKOTE, BHUBANESWAR, LAXMANNATH, DURGAPUR, RANJGANJ.

The following applicants were noticed to appear before STA for hearing regarding consideration of their application for grant of permanent permit in the above route.

1. Ameet Sahoo, owner of vehicle OD05V-7165.
2. Birendra Kumar Sahoo, owner of vehicle OD05W-7165.
3. Sushama Sahoo, owner of vehicle OD05U-1646.
4. Prakash Chandra Sahoo, owner of vehicle OD05T-1646.

Sri Ameet Sahoo has filed memo stating that his vehicle OD05V-7165 has been covered under permanent permit in the route Aska to Asansol and he has not applied for grant of permit in the present vacancy;
Sri Birendra Kumar Sahoo has filed memo stating that his vehicle OD05W-7165 has been covered under permanent permit in the route Aska to Asansol and he has not applied for grant of permit in the present vacancy.

Applicant Sushama Sahoo, owner of vehicle OD05U-1646 is absent on call. On verification of records it is found that permanent permit No.15-G/2017 has been issued by STA in her favour in the route Aska to Asansol which is valid from 24.03.2017 to 23.03.2022.

Advocate Sri P. Behera has filed petition for Puneet Kumar Sahoo, owner of vehicle OD05AA-7165 stating that he has applied for grant of permanent permit in the above vacant route which was not considered due to pendency of M.V. Appeal No.06/2017 filed by one Prakash Ch. Sahoo whose application was rejected. He has not been noticed to appear before STA for consideration of his application. He prayed to defer the hearing and consider his application in the next meeting after due notice to him.

Since Puneet Kumar Sahoo was not noticed to appear before STA for hearing regarding consideration of his application filed by him earlier, his application cannot be considered by STA and his prayer is accordingly rejected.

Prakash Chandra Sahoo, owner of vehicle OD05T-1646 is represented by Advocate Sri R. P. Kar. Heard. He stated that in the year 2017 he has applied for permanent permit in the route Aska to Asansol which was rejected by Chairman, STA on the ground that his past conduct is not good. That he preferred M.V. Appeal No.06/2017 before Hon’ble STAT which was disposed of on 09.02.2018 and the matter was remitted back to STA for fresh consideration in accordance with law. The vehicle OD05T-1646 is an Air Conditioned Deluxe bus which was never used anywhere else. The applicant is operating bus service from Bhubaneswar to Garbeta and Narsinghpur to Kolkata. Tax in respect of vehicle OD05T-1646 has been paid regularly. In Crime Branch Case he is not an accused but a witness. He prayed to grant permanent permit in favour of Prakash Ch. Sahoo, owner of vehicle OD05T-1646 in the route Aska to Asansol.
While remitting the matter to STA for fresh consideration in accordance with law after given opportunity of being heard to the appellant, Hon'ble STAT has set aside the order passed by Chairman, STA on the ground that opportunity of being heard was not given to the appellant - Prakash Chandra Sahoo as provided under Section 80 (2) of M.V. Act, 1988.

In this regard order passed by Chairman, STA is reproduced below for better appreciation.

"Prakash Chandra Sahoo, owner of vehicle OD-05T-1646 has applied for grant of permanent permit in the interstate route Aska to Asansol.

(1) On perusal of records it reveals that earlier permanent permit No.42/2012 was issued to Prakash Chandra Sahoo in respect of vehicle OR-05AV-8130 in the interstate route Bhubaneswar to Gharbata valid till 31.10.2017.

Permanent permit No.43/2012 was also issued to Prakash Chandra Sahoo in respect of vehicle OR-05AV-8129 in the interstate route Narsinghpur to Kolkata valid till 02.11.2017.

CID P.S. Case No.28/2013 and No.30/2013 were registered against Prakash Chandra Sahoo under Section 468/470 & 471 of I.P.C. for getting the vehicle OR-05AV-8130 & OR-05AV-8129 registered in his name by producing forge and manipulated documents. Subsequently both the vehicles were seized by Crime Branch and RTO, Cuttack had cancelled registration certificates of those vehicles.

Basing upon the report received from the Crime Branch and RTO, Cuttack, the Chairman, STA vide order dated 19.09.2015 cancelled P.P. No.42/2012. The STA in 280th meeting held on 18.12.2015 also cancelled P.P. No.43/2012.

On the resultant vacancy permanent permit No.06/2016 was issued to one Satya Narayan Das in the interstate route Bhubaneswar to Gharbata.

Being aggrieved Sri Sahoo filed M.V. Appeal No.23/2015 before Hon'ble STAT and also filed W.P. (C) No.2955 of 2016 before Hon'ble High Court.

Pursuant to order dated 24.02.2016 passed by Hon'ble High Court, permanent permit issued to Satya Narayan Das was recalled.

In the meantime Hon'ble STAT allowed M.V. Appeal No.23/2015 filed by Sri Prakash Chandra Sahoo. The appellant is given liberty to file application before STA to operate any other vehicle in place of impugned vehicle OR-05AV-8130.
Being aggrieved Sri Satya Narayan Das filed W.P. (C) No.10935 of 2016 before Hon'ble High Court. Hon'ble Court by order dated 27.05.2016 directed that order passed by Hon'ble STAT in M.V. Appeal No.23/2015 vide Annexure-10 shall remain stayed till next date. The writ petition is subjudice.

Challenging decision taken by STA in its 280th meeting held on 18.12.2015 in cancelling P.P. No.43/2012 in the interstate route Narsinghpur to Kolkata, Sri Prakash Ch. Sahoo filed M.V. Appeal No.10/2016 before Hon'ble STAT which was remitted back to STA by order dated 02.04.2016 to reconsider the question of cancellation of appellant's permanent permit in the aforesaid route. The matter was placed before STA in its 281st, 282nd and 283rd meetings and no decision taken. The matter was deferred to next STA meeting.

(2) While the matter stood thus, the Asst. Public Prosecutor vide his office letter No.1140 dated 20.07.2016 has intimated that the final report submitted by the Crime Branch in connection with above cases were not accepted by the SDJM, Sadar, Cuttack.

From the foregoing discussion, it is evident from records that Sri Prakash Chandra Sahoo has got the vehicles OR-05AV-8130 & OR-05AV-8129 registered in his name on the basis of false documents and the registration certificate of those vehicles were cancelled by the Registering Authority, Cuttack under Section 55 (5) of M.V. Act, 1988. This authority also cancelled permanent permit No.42/2012 and No.43/2012 issued to Sri Prakash Ch. Sahoo under Section 86 (1) (d) of M.V. Act, 1988 for obtaining the permit by fraud and misrepresentation.

From the foregoing discussion, I am of the considered view that past performance of Sri Prakash Chandra Sahoo as stage carriage operator is not satisfactory. In such view of the matter, I am not inclined to grant permanent permit in favour of Prakash Chandra Sahoo, owner of vehicle OD-05T-1646 in the interstate route Aska to Asansole which is accordingly rejected.

Sd/-
Chairman, STA

During hearing learned Advocate for Prakash Ch. Sahoo has not produced any documentary evidence that final report submitted by Crime Branch in CID P.S. Case No.28 of 2013 and No.30 of 2013 has been accepted by the competent Court and he is one of the witness therein. He has not filed any document to establish that order of cancellation of registration certificate by the Registering Authority, Cuttack in respect of vehicle OR05AV-8130 and OR05AV-8129 has been set aside by Appellate Authority. No document filed by him in support of his claim that he was regularly operating in the
interstate route Narsinghpur to Kolkata and Bhubaneswar to Garbeta. He has not produced any documentary evidence to establish that vehicle OR05AV-8130 and OR05AV-8129 had been released by Police in his favour. Therefore, his claim of having experience in operating stage carriages on interstate routes is not established.

In view of foregoing facts and circumstances it can be safely concluded that past conduct of the applicant Prakash Ch. Sahoo is not satisfactory which is prime consideration for grant of permanent permit as provided under Section 71 (3) (d) (ii) of M.V. Act, 1988.

After due deliberation it has been resolved to reject the applicant for grant of permanent permit to Prakash Ch. Sahoo in respect of vehicle OD05T-1646 in the interstate route Aska to Asansol.

It was resolved to notify the route in the newspaper inviting applications for grant of Permanent Permit to select deserving operator for affording opportunity to all intending operators in the interest of equal opportunity and fair play, so that latest model new vehicle will be offered by the prospective applications which would be beneficial for the public at large.

2.7 CANCELLATION OF PERMANENT PERMITS IN THE INTERSTATE ROUTE NARSINGHPUR TO KOLKATA.

Permanent permit No.03-G/2020 was issued to Madan Mohan Sahoo, owner of vehicle OD05AJ-8529 valid from 05.02.2020 to 04.02.2025 to operate in the interstate route Narsinghpur to Kolkata. A condition was imposed in the permit that the permit holder shall make TGR entry in the Narsinghpur Police Station every day to ensure plying of vehicle from Narsinghpur to Kolkata in the interest of travelling public. The permit holder is not operating in the above route causing inconvenience to travelling public.

Permanent permit No.51-R/2017 was issued to Sidhartha Kumar Sahoo, owner of vehicle OR05AP-6346 to operate in the interstate route Narsinghpur to Kolkata which is valid till 02.11.2022. The vehicle was reportedly not operating in the above route causing inconvenience to travelling public.
The matter was placed before STA for decision regarding cancellation of permit granted to above permit holders due to non-operation in the route in question violating permit conditions. After due deliberation it was resolved to authorize Chairman, STA to initiate proceeding for cancellation of permit and provide opportunity of being heard to above permit holders following procedure laid down under Section 86 of M.V. Act, 1988. After conclusion of hearing, decision taken by Chairman, STA may be communicated to Members of STA by circulation for approval.

CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF STAGE CARRIAGE PERMIT ON INTER REGION ROUTES.

2.8 KEONJHAR TO BHADRAK VIA. GHATGAON AND BACK

Pursuant to the advertisement published in daily Newspaper “The Samaj”, “Dharitri” and “The Times of India” on 05.02.2020, one application filed by Smt. Nibedita Das, owner of vehicle OR13F-7877 has applied for grant of permanent permit in the aforesaid route.

Applicant Smt. Nibedita Das, owner of vehicle No.OR13F-7877 is represented by Sri Rabi Narayan Das. He stated that the applicant will replace the vehicle before renewal of permit if considered since the vehicle is of ten years old. The applicant has submitted Solvency Certificate of Rs.4,00,000/- issued by Tahasildar, Bhadrak in Misc. case No.e-SLV/4 of 2020 dated 19.02.2020 and self-declaration.

There is no objection. As per VAHAN data there was no VCR pending against vehicle OR13F-7877. It was decided to grant permanent stage carriage permit to Smt. Nibedita Das, owner of vehicle No.OR13F-7877 in the route Keonjhar to Bhadrak to perform two trips daily for a period of five years, as ordinary subject to verification of original documents submitted by her. The grantee will replace the vehicle before renewal as undertaken. The grantee shall lift the permit within a period of thirty days from the date of communication failing which the grant order shall deem to be revoked. Before issue of permit, tax payment position, audit and VCR clearance should be obtained and it should be ensured that the vehicle was not off-road on the date of application and on the date of consideration.
2.9 CUTTACK TO PURI VIA. KALPANA, PIPILI AND BACK (four trips daily).

Pursuant to the advertisement published in daily Newspaper "The Samaj", "Dharitri" and "The Times of India" on 05.02.2020, following applications are received for grant of permanent permit in the aforesaid route.

1. Sri Khetra Mohan Sahoo, owner of vehicle OD13L-6818.
2. Sri Gayadhar Swain, owner of vehicle OD05AV-4699.
3. Madhusmita Tours and Travels, C/o-Sri Ganesh Chandra Swain, owner of vehicle OD02BA-1267.
4. Sri Lingaraj Swain, owner of vehicle OD02BH-5267.
5. Sri Manish Barik, owner of vehicle OD05AV-5299.
6. Sri Priyabrata Tripathy, owner of vehicle OD05AV-4149.
7. Smt. Manjulata Rout, owner of vehicle OD05AV-5377.

Applicant Sri Khetra Mohan Sahoo, owner of vehicle OD13L-6818 is represented by Advocate Shri J.N. Mohanty. He stated that the vehicle of applicant is ordinary Air Conditioned bus. He has submitted self-declaration regarding tax / penalty, VCR, audit etc position.

Sri Khetra Mohan Sahoo, owner of vehicle OD13L-6818 has not submitted Solvency / Bank Guarantee as required under Section 71 (3) (d) (i) of M.V Act 1988 to adjudge his merit. As per VAHAN data there was one VCR drawn against vehicle OD13L-6818 under Section 177 which was disposed of. His application is therefore rejected.

Applicant Sri Gayadhar Swain, owner of vehicle OD05AV-4699 is represented by Advocate Shri H.P. Mohanty. He stated that he has submitted declaration in connection with non-pendency of VCR and Tax etc.. Besides, the vehicle of the applicant is an Air Conditioned Deluxe Bus (model 2019). He has submitted Bank Guarantee of Rs.99,000/-.

As per VAHAN data there was no VCR pending against vehicle OD05AV-4699.
Based on the evaluation criteria, in terms of model of vehicle, type of facilities in bus, Sri Gayadhar Swain, owner of vehicle OD05AV-4699 secured 80 marks and ranked 1st.

Applicant Madhusmita Tours and Travels, C/o. Ganesh Ch. Swain, owner of vehicle OD02BA-1267 is represented by Advocate, Shri Pravakar Behera. He has filed Bank Guarantee of Rs.99,000/-. Ganesh Ch. Swain has filed self-declaration.

As per VAHAN data there was no VCR pending against vehicle OD02BA-1267.

Based on the evaluation criteria, in terms of model of vehicle, type of facilities in bus, Madhusmita Tours and Travels, owner of vehicle OD02BA-1267 secured 45 marks and ranked 4th.

Applicant Shri Lingaraj Swain, owner of vehicle OD02BH-5267 is represented by Advocate, Shri Pravakar Behera. He has filed Bank Guarantee of Rs.99,000/-. The applicant filed self-declaration.

As per VAHAN data there was no VCR pending against vehicle OD02BH-5267.

Based on the evaluation criteria, in terms of model of vehicle, type of facilities in bus, Shri Lingaraj Swain, owner of vehicle OD02BH-5267 secured 50 marks and ranked 3rd.

Applicant Shri Manish Barik, owner of vehicle No.OD05AV-5299 is represented by Advocate Shri R. P. Kar. He stated that the applicant has furnished declaration along with application. He has filed Bank Guarantee of Rs.1,00,000/-. 

As per VAHAN data there was no VCR pending against vehicle OD05AV-5299.

Based on the evaluation criteria, in terms of model of vehicle, type of facilities in bus, Shri Manish Barik, owner of vehicle No.OD05AV-5299 secured 65 marks and ranked 2nd.

Applicant Shri Priyabrata Tripathy; owner of vehicle OD05AV-4149 is present in person. He stated that he has submitted undertaking and declaration along with his application. He has filed Bank Guarantee of Rs.99,000/-. 

\[\text{Signature}\]
As per VAHAN data there was no VCR pending against vehicle OD05AV-4149.

Based on the evaluation criteria, in terms of model of vehicle, type of facilities in bus, Shri Priyabrata Tripathy, owner of vehicle OD05AV-4149 secured 65 marks and ranked 2nd.

Applicant Smt. Manjulata Rout, owner of vehicle OD05AV-5377 is represented by Advocate Shri Sabyasachi Mishra. The applicant furnished declaration in form of affidavit. She has not furnished Bank Guarantee and submitted Term Deposit Receipt (TDR).

As per VAHAN data there was no VCR pending against vehicle OD05AV-5377.

Smt. Manjulata Rout, owner of vehicle OD05AV-5377 has not submitted Solvency / Bank Guarantee as required under Section 71 (3) (d) (i) of M.V Act 1988 to adjudge her merit. Her application is therefore rejected.

It was decided to grant permanent stage carriage permit to Gayadhar Swain, owner of vehicle No.OD05AV-4699 in the route Cuttack to Puri and back to perform four trips daily for a period of five years, as Air Conditioned Deluxe Service subject to verification of original documents submitted by her. The grantee will file Solvency Certificate with three days and replace the vehicle before renewal as undertaken. The grantee shall lift the permit within a period of thirty days from the date of communication failing which the grant order shall deem to be revoked. Before issue of permit, tax payment position, audit and VCR clearance should be obtained and it should be ensured that the vehicle was not off-road on the date of application and on the date of consideration.

2.10 CUTTACK TO ATHAMALLICK VIA. BANARPAL, ANGUL

As per direction of Hon’ble High Court in W.A. No.352 of 2018 vide order dated 05.12.2019 following applicants who had filed application for grant of permanent permit in the aforesaid route were noticed to appear before STA for hearing.

1) Sri Mohan Kumar Mohanty, Owner of vehicle no.OR19M-5574 (Model-2011)
2) Smt. Rajanibala Das, Owner of vehicle no.OR05G-6075 (Model-1998)
3) Sri Santosh Harichandan, owner of vehicle no.OR05AQ-1978 (Model-2011)
The said matter was placed in the 270th meeting of STA and it was decided to grant Permanent Permit to OSRTC. Subsequently, the OSRTC has surrendered the permit.

Sri P. Behera, Advocate for Sri Debadullav Mohanty has filed certified copy order passed by Hon'ble High Court of Orissa in W.A No.352 of 2018 which was disposed of on dt.05.12.2019. In the said Writ Appeal, Hon'ble High Court has directed that:

"Taking into consideration the said observation made by this Court and after hearing the learned counsel for the appellant and on perusing the impugned order, we find that there is no error apparent on the face of the record and therefore, we are not inclined to interfere with the impugned order. However, we observe that the other parties who have made their applications before the State Transport Authority be also heard so that they may also get an opportunity according to their willingness and in such event, the authority will consider what would be beneficial for the public at large by choosing the best vehicle in the route in question.

It is submitted that after dismissal of the writ petition by the learned Single Judge till date no action has been taken by the authorities.

It is open to the appellant to approach the authority as directed above within a period of seven days, in such event, the authority shall consider the same giving opportunity of hearing to the respective parties and dispose of the same in accordance with law within a period of two months".
Applicant Shri Debadullav Mohanty, owner of vehicle No. OR05AK-2174 is represented by Advocate Shri Pravakar Behera. Heard. He stated that except his client Shri Debadullav Mohanty, rest eleven applicants have obtained permit and plying their vehicles. He stated that the present applicant has got a permit which has been surrendered by OSRTC.

The representative of OSRTC Mr. Sanyasi Kothia, Asst. Station Master is present and stated that OSRTC has surrendered the said permit.

The vehicle offered by the applicant Debadullav Mohanty is of 2010 model and by now completed ten years.

The STA in its 259th meeting held on 21.09.2010 and 266th meeting decided to notify different vacant routes where the permit was lapsed or surrendered. The decision of STA to notify vacant route has been upheld by the Hon'ble High Court in W.P. (C) No.20349 of 2010 (Smt. Pravati Mohanty Vrs. STA, Odisha and another) and W.P. (C) No.13404 of 2012 (Manoj Kumar Mishra Vrs. STA, Odisha and another).

In the present case permanent permit granted by STA to OSRTC was surrendered long back. Hon'ble High Court has specifically observed that “the authority will consider what would be beneficial for the public at large by choosing the best vehicle in the route in question”.

After due deliberation it was unanimously resolved to reject the application of Sri Debadullav Mohanty and to notify the route in the newspaper inviting applications for grant of Permanent Permit to select deserving operator for affording opportunity to all intending operators in the interest of equal opportunity and fair play, so that latest model new vehicle will be offered by the prospective applications which would be beneficial for the public at large. The appellant may compete with other applicants to get the permit on merit.

2.11 CANCELATION OF PERMANENT PERMIT IN THE ROUTE HINJILICUT TO CUTTACK VIA BERHAMPUR, BALUGAON.

Permanent permit No.SC/SIRP99/01781/2019 was issued in favour of Zakira Begum, owner of vehicle OR07T-1441 in the route Hinjilicut to Cuttack via Berhampur, Balugaon which is valid from 07.08.2019 to 06.08.2024. On 09.02.2020 while said bus
was plying unauthorisedly without permit from NH 16 towards Chikarada on Tulu Road carrying 40 passengers (approx.) on contract was electrocuted and five persons died on spot at Mendrajpur under Golanthara P.S., Ganjam.

The permit holder was noticed vide this office letter No.2359 dated 18.02.2020 to file show cause as to why permanent permit issued to her shall not be cancelled for violating permit conditions.

The matter was placed before STA for decision regarding cancellation of permit granted to above permit holder for violation of permit conditions and plying of vehicle without permit. After due deliberation it was resolved to authorize Chairman, STA to initiate proceeding for cancellation of permit and provide opportunity of being heard to above permit holder following procedure laid down under Section 86 of M.V. Act, 1988. After conclusion of hearing, decision taken by Chairman, STA may be communicated to Members of STA by circulation for approval.

2.12 CANCELLATION OF ALL ODISHA CONTRACT CARRIAGE PERMIT GRANTED TO URMILA MAHALA IN RESPECT OF VEHICLE OSX-2970.

After due deliberation it was resolved to defer the matter to next STA meeting for decision.
ANNEXURE-A

(Declaration to be made by the applicant as per decision taken in 291st STA meeting held on 19.02.2020 which shall be invariably accompanied / uploaded along with application for grant of permanent stage carriage permit made online / off-line)

PROFORMA

1. Name of the applicant in full. :-
2. Registration number of vehicle for which application is made. :-
3. Name of route (s) applied for. :-
4. Registration number of all stage carriages owned by the applicant. :-
5. Registration number of all contract carriages owned by the applicant. :-
6. Whether VCR / e-challan drawn under Section 192-A of M.V. Act, 1988 in respect of vehicle for which application is made for (1) without permit, (2) making unauthorized trips, (3) as stage carriage under special permit / contract carriage permit within one year prior to the date of application. Please mention all the VCRs / e-challans even if closed. :-
7. Whether VCR / e-challan under Section 192-A of M.V. Act, 1988 was drawn against any of his / her vehicle within one year prior to the date of consideration for plying (1) without permit, (2) making unauthorized trips, (3) as stage carriage under special permit / contract carriage permit and its present status. (furnish details) :-
8. Period upto which tax has been paid in respect of applied vehicle. (Please specify arrear tax / penalty, if any outstanding) :-
9. Whether up to date tax has been paid in respect of all vehicles. :-
10. Whether any tax / penalty / audit dues remain unpaid in respect of all vehicles. (Furnish details) :-
11. Whether Tax Recovery Case / MVT Appeal / Revision / criminal case etc is pending against the applicant. :-

Place :-
Date :-

Full signature of the applicant.

Note:- 1. Application received without above declaration shall not be considered.
2. Above declaration to be filled up and signed by the applicant and format can be downloaded.
ANNEXURE-B

(Addl.-declaration to be made by the applicant as per decision taken in 291st STA meeting held on 19.02.2020 which shall be invariably accompanied / uploaded along with application for grant of permanent stage carriage permit made online / off-line)

PROFORMA

1. Name of the applicant in full. :-
2. Registration number of vehicle for which application is made. :-
3. Name of route (s) applied for. :-
4. Registration number of all stage carriages owned by the applicant. :-
5. Registration number of all contract carriages owned by the applicant. :-
6. Whether VCR / e-challan drawn under Section 192-A of M.V. Act, 1988 in respect of vehicle for which application is made for (1) without permit, (2) making unauthorized trips, (3) as stage carriage under special permit / contract carriage permit within one year prior to the date of application. Please mention all the VCRs / e-challans even if closed. :-
7. Whether VCR / e-challan under Section 192-A of M.V. Act, 1988 was drawn against any of his / her vehicle within one year prior to the date of consideration for plying (1) without permit, (2) making unauthorized trips, (3) as stage carriage under special permit / contract carriage permit and its present status. (furnish details) :-
8. Period upto which tax has been paid in respect of applied vehicle. (Please specify arrear tax / penalty, if any outstanding) :-
9. Whether up to date tax has been paid in respect of all vehicles. :-
10. Whether any tax / penalty / audit dues remain unpaid in respect of all vehicles. (Furnish details) :-
11. Whether Tax Recovery Case / MVT Appeal / Revision/ criminal case etc is pending against the applicant. :-

Place :-
Date :-

Full signature of the applicant.

Note:- 1. Above declaration to be filled up and signed by the applicant and format can be downloaded.
2. Where a vehicle was involved in any offence between date of application and date of consideration and e-challan drawn to that effect under Section 192-A of M.V. Act, 1988, the applicant will furnish additional self-declaration mentioning such offence on the date of consideration.
ANNEXURE-C

(Declaration to be made by the applicant as per decision taken in 291st STA meeting held on 19.02.2020 which shall be invariably accompanied / uploaded along with application for renewal of permanent stage carriage permit made online / off-line)

PROFORMA

1. Name of the applicant in full.

2. Registration number of vehicle for which application is made.

3. Name of route(s) applied for.

4. Whether VCR(s) / e-challan has been drawn under Section 192-A of M.V. Act, 1988 in respect of vehicle for which application is made for (1) without permit, (2) making unauthorized trips, (3) as stage carriage under special permit / contract carriage permit within one year prior to the date of application. Please mention all the VCRs / e-challans even if closed.

5. Whether the vehicle(s) covered under permanent permit had been declared off road for a period of one year in different spells during currency of permit. (furnish details)

6. Whether the permanent permit was countersigned by reciprocating state? If yes, furnish self-attested copy of countersignature (for interstate route only).

7. Whether the vehicle was plying regularly in the given route. If no, furnish reasons.

8. Whether tax has been paid for the entire period of validity of permit excluding off road period.

9. Whether any tax / penalty / audit dues remain unpaid in respect of the vehicle.

10. Whether Tax Recovery Case / MVT Appeal / Revision/ criminal case etc is pending against the applicant.

Place:
Date:
Full signature of the applicant.

Note:- 1. Application received without above declaration shall not be considered.

2. Above declaration to be filled up and signed by the applicant and format can be downloaded.