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Punjab CM Orders Transport Fare Reduction

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Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has ordered authorities to oversee a reduction in public transport fares following a recent decrease in diesel prices. The directive aims to ensure that lower fuel costs are reflected in transport charges, providing economic relief to commuters who depend on buses, vans, and other public transport.

According to the chief minister, the adjustment of fares should be transparent and fair to passengers. She emphasized that transport operators must pass on the benefits of reduced diesel prices without delay. Addressing officials, she said, “The reduction in transport fares must be implemented promptly, and fare regulations strictly enforced.”

To enforce this, district administrations and the provincial transport department have been tasked with monitoring fare compliance closely. Transporters charging higher than the prescribed fares will face penalties. The chief minister also directed that updated fare lists be clearly displayed at all transport terminals and bus stands across Punjab, enabling passengers to verify the correct charges.

The move follows a significant drop in diesel prices, which decreases operating costs for public transport providers. However, fare adjustments have sometimes been delayed, causing frustration among daily commuters. The government's focus is to ensure that fuel price reductions benefit passengers without unnecessary lag.

Officials from the Punjab Transport Department confirmed that inspection teams have already been deployed. In major cities such as Lahore, Rawalpindi, Multan, and Faisalabad, monitoring squads will conduct surprise checks and respond to complaints swiftly. Additionally, a helpline is being considered to allow passengers to report fare violations directly.

Civil society groups have responded positively, noting that affordable transportation is important for low-income workers and students who rely heavily on public transit. However, the emphasis remains on government oversight rather than market-driven pricing mechanisms.

Separately, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz recently arrived at Handa Airport in Tokyo, where she was welcomed by Japanese officials, diplomats, and Pakistan's Ambassador Abdul Hameed. This visit is part of her ongoing efforts to strengthen Pakistan's diplomatic and economic ties with Japan.

The chief minister's approach reflects a dual focus: balancing domestic economic concerns through regulatory measures aimed at public welfare, while also pursuing international partnerships to support broader development goals. This strategy underscores the government's active role in both internal governance and external relations.