

# Govt bus fleet may soon run on eco-friendly bio-diesel

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**Kolkata:** The six state transport corporations may soon be powered by green fuel. With bio-fuel availability in the state reaching 500 tonnes or nearly 6 lakh litres a day, CSTC and CTC are keen to blend diesel with bio-fuel to meet their daily needs.

The other four transport corporations — West Bengal Surface Transport Corporation, South Bengal State Transport Corporation, North Bengal State Transport Corporation and Hooghly River Transport Corporation — are expected to follow suit.

While Emami Biotech had commenced production at its 300 tonne a day capacity unit in Haldia earlier, Costal Energy became the second bio-fuel firm to do so. It will produce 200 tonne bio-fuel daily at the facility in Falta. Costal invested Rs 70 crore in the plant while Emami pumped in Rs 160 crore. Both firms have supplied green fuel to CSTC to conduct trial runs.

"CSTC ran four buses for 10 days on diesel blended with our bio-fuel. The report was favourable. We will supply bio-fuel to CTC for trial runs. Then, we will enter into negotiation for regular supply to the various transport corporations," Costal Energy chairman Ashok Bajoria said.

Emami Biotech has also supplied fuel to CSTC and CTC for trial runs. While CSTC is yet to report



**BIO-FUEL AVAILABLE IN STATE: 500 TONNE OR 6 LAKH LITRE A DAY**

**MANUFACTURERS:**

**EMAMI**

Capacity: **300** tonne a day  
Investment: **Rs 200 cr**  
Site: Haldia

**COSTAL ENERGY**

Capacity: **200** tonne a day  
Investment: **Rs 150 cr**  
Site: Falta

**Fuel demand of six state transport corporations:**

**1,800** kilo-litre diesel a month

Possible bio-fuel blend: **20%** with diesel

Savings: Bio-fuel costs **Rs 1-2** less than diesel, leading to savings of **Rs 3.6-7** lakh a month

its findings, CTC is extremely happy with the rest of the five buses that plied with bio-diesel. "We expect to bag the order for bulk supply to CTC and other state transport corporations," Emami Biotech director Aditya Agarwal said.

"Since bio-fuel will cost Rs 1-2 less than diesel, a 20% mix can lead to savings of Rs 3.6-7 lakh a month. The monetary benefits apart, it will also be a huge comfort to the environment because bio-fuel does not

emit either carbon monoxide or sulfur dioxide," Bajoria explained.

Transport secretary Sumantra Chowdhury is taking a keen interest in the development. "We want to use bio-diesel in government buses to reduce emission levels," he said.

The two firms are in talks with oil companies for pre-mixing of diesel with bio-fuel in pumps. Indian Oil Corporation is expected to visit the twin units soon to determine the quality of bio-fuel produced.