

Rs 20 lakh apiece, but these DTC bus shelters are disabled

Neha Attre | New Delhi

After wasting crore of rupees in the ill-conceived BRT corridor, the Government's spending on new DTC bus shelters has gone in vain. With the main aim to make the bus shelters convenient especially for the elderly and disabled, the DTC upgraded the bus stops with an investment of Rs 20 lakh at each of them but the main feature of these aesthetic shelters – ramp – is missing.

Instead of merging the ramps with the road level, ramps have only been constructed to merge with the level of existing footpath. To access the bus stop, a commuter will have to first hop on the footpath and then get off again to board the bus.

"The very purpose of providing safeguard is gone. I cannot understand why do they waste public funds by not managing the affairs properly. Look at this bus stop. It is newly constructed with all new steel railings etc. It looks beautiful in an effort to make the city world class but it is helping none. We still have to jump," said Nethra Lal Singh, a senior citizen waiting at the Rajghat Bus stop. The ramps constructed at the bus shelters are steep and inaccessible for the disabled wheelchair users.

Of the 1,400 DTC bus shelters that are to be constructed on Built Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis, 200 are already functional. Though DTC earns over a crore as monthly revenue from these bus shelters, the commuters are yet to be provided with a convenient public transport infrastructure.

With DTC low floor buses, Bluelines and DTC standard buses taking passengers from these bus stops, the height of these buses in accordance with the bus stops continue to vary.

While commuters like the aged and the disabled commuters continue to battle their way to board the buses, nothing concrete is being done to solve their problem.



Alwin Singh | Pioneer



Vijay Kumar | Pioneer

"We have instructed the concerned persons to make required changes wherever it is possible in the present bus shelters. Meanwhile, these changes will be incorporated in the designing part while constructing other bus shelters," said Ramesh Negi, DTC Chairman.

Constructed on BOT basis, the cost for the construction of a bus shelter comes around Rs 20 lakh. DTC earns around Rs 92,000 as monthly revenue for a bus shelter. While

DTC earns around over a crore as revenue from these bus stops on a monthly basis, the changes are yet to be incorporated to suit the convenience of the commuters like the old and disabled.

With these bus stops not being user friendly, the non-government-organisations (NGOs) dealing with such issues feel that their opinion should be taken so that corrective measures are taken instantly.

"We have recently conducted an audit report on these bus shelters and have found various lapses on the existing bus shelters. The ramps are not user friendly while the railings constructed are slippery. During rains, the bus shelters become slippery and efforts should be made to rectify this problem. They should be constructed in a manner to cater to every commuter's requirement," said Sminu Jindal, founder of Svayam, an NGO.