

New Emission Norms in India expected by mid-Feb

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New Delhi, Feb 1 - A clear picture on the modalities of implementing a new vehicle emission norm in the country is expected by the middle of this month when the government is likely to come out with a final plan.

As of now we don't have a final word (from the government) yet but we will get it by February 15, Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) President Pawan Goenka said today.

He said meetings were held, including with the Petroleum & Natural Gas and Transport ministries to chart out plans for implementation of the new norms scheduled to be effective April 1, and sort out the problems related to upgraded fuel supply across the country.

Meanwhile, most of the company's have made back up plans and we are keeping ourselves ready, he said.

From April 1, 13 cities, where Bharat Stage (BS) III emission norms are currently followed are scheduled to move up to BS IV--a more stringent emission norm, while the rest of the country will upgrade to BS III from BS II.

However, there have been concerns about the government's preparedness to supply upgraded fuel compliant with the new engine emission standards.

Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Jitin Prasada had said while there will not be any issues supplying Bharat Stage-IV petrol and diesel in 13 cities from April 1, Bharat Stage-III will be launched in phases to cover the entire nation by October 1.

Auto makers had earlier asked the government to give a status on the supply issue regarding upgraded fuel latest by January 31, while suggesting that implementation of the new emission norms be postponed by at least by 3-6 months if fuel supply cannot be ensured across the country.