

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

FASTags mandatory for existing and new four wheelers from 1 January 2021

November 9, 2020

Relevant to M&M Auto

Background

- FASTag is a device that uses Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology to make electronic payment of tolls. It is linked to a prepaid account to which car owners can add money as and when required.
- Valid for five years, FASTag was introduced to reduce the bottlenecks at toll plazas across the country by reducing the need for drivers to roll down the window to hand over cash.
- As mentioned before, FASTags come mandatorily fitted on all new cars from December 2017, with the tags also mandatory on commercial vehicles for the renewal of their fitness certificates and on National Permit Vehicles/
- MoRTH had rolled out the compulsory implementation of FASTags at highway toll plazas late last year, with all but one lane dedicated to electronic toll collection via FASTags.

FASTags

- The government has issued a notification "making FASTag mandatory to be available by January 1, 2021 in old vehicles also i.e. M and N category of motor vehicles (four wheelers) sold before December 1, 2017 through amendments in CMVR, 1989", the MoRTH said in a statement.
- As per Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, the FASTag had been made mandatory for registration of new four wheeled vehicles since December 1, 2017 and is being supplied by the vehicle manufacturers or their dealers.

Ensuring Tolls

- M&N vehicles refers to vehicles having at least four wheels and used for the carriage of passengers (e.g., standard car with two, three, four doors) and power-driven vehicles having at least four wheels and used for the carriage of goods, respectively.
- The ministry said that this notification would be a major step for ensuring that the payment of fees be 100% at toll plazas through the electronic means only and that the vehicles pass seamlessly through the fee plazas. There would be no waiting time at the plazas and would save fuel, said the ministry.

For Further Reading

1. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/from-1-jan-2021-fastag-is-mandatory-for-all-4-wheel-vehicles-sold-before-dec-2017-govt-11604752269569.html>
2. <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-fastags-mandatory-from-jan-how-do-i-get-one-how-much-does-it-cost-7049351/>
3. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/fastags-mandatory-for-all-four-wheelers-from-january-1-2021/articleshow/79103334.cms?from=mdr>