

Mumbai Police raid on fake high security number plates

S Ahmed Ali | TNN | Updated: Feb 22, 2014, 21:18 IST



MUMBAI: A day after the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Mumbai police

carried raids and searches at various places in the city, the manufacturers of fake high security registration number plates

(HSRP) have fled away leaving their workshops abandoned.

A team of EOW on Friday and Saturday carried searches in five places in Mumbai, Vashi in Navi Mumbai, Goregaon and Andheri but police could not find anyone at the workshop. Police have seized huge quantity of raw material like blank alloy sheets, hologram, paints and stickers from these workshop. "The workshops are found to be abandoned and hence we have sealed the machines and seized the raw material and have summoned their proprietors." Said investigating officer Suresh Avhad.

On Saturday the team was busy searching a small manufacturing unit at industrial estate in Goregaon east.

What has baffled the police is the fact that the local police is not taking any action on the retailers who are openly selling these look alike number plate in the name of HSRP. According to the Central Motor vehicle act rule 50, it is clear that the police should book those selling such inferior quality under IPC of 420 of cheating and it is suprising that such plates are sold openly at car accessories at Sion Koliwada, Lamington road, Milan Subway and outside all the four RTOs illegally." Said an officer.

EOW officials said that they are focusing on manufacturers rather than retailers. Last week the EOW arrested Parin Patel from Goregaon who is one of the main manufacturers of fake HSRP. Nariman point based company and a petrol pump owner at Kurla are under the scanner.

Sources said that Patel is not a single manufacturer as there are several of them all over the state who are selling these HSRP claiming to be genuine one even as the Maharashtra government is yet to implement the rule of compulsory HSRP. In 2011, the Central government implemented the scheme of compulsorily using the HSRP under the Central motor vehicle Act and states like Madhya Pradesh Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Rajasthan and Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir are made it mandatory to use these HSRP for vehicle owners.

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However in Maharashtra few racketeers are selling lookalike HSRP claiming to be authorized one.

People involved in this are causing a heavy loss to government. State gets 12.50% VAT on each HSRP sold, it gets 5% as royalty from authorized HSRP and central government earns excise duty at 12.36% on the cost in all the government gets 30% revenue. But what is happening that even as the

rule is yet to come into effect, the racketeers are robbing vehicle owners by selling this inferior quality" said Mahesh Malhotra Delhi based authorized HSRP manufactuer.

Meanwhile, state transport commissioner V N More said that they have already registered eight to ten cases in Mumbai and Thane against those involved in selling the HSRP. "I have written to Mumbai and Thane police to find out the supplier of these fake numberplates and the entire cartel should be exposed," More added.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/Mumbai-Police-raid-on-fake-high-security-number-plates/articleshow/30864818.cms>