

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SURFACE TRANSPORT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:520
ANSWERED ON:28.02.2000
STRIKE BY TRUCK OPERATORS
SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the truck operators had gone on strike in recent past to press for their demands ;
- (b) if so, the loss incurred as a result thereof ;
- (c) the details of the agreement reached between the truck owners and the Government to end the strike ; and
- (d) the extent to which the possibilities of the road transport industry are likely to increase after according it the status of industry ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT
(DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN)

- (a) The truck operators went on strike in protest against the hike in diesel prices.
- (b) The loss can not be quantified.
- (c) The details of the agreement are Annexed.
- (d) The industry status to Road Transport could facilitate a number of measures such as :-
 - i) Availability of low cost fund under infrastructure development.
 - ii) Availability of funds at reasonable rates for used vehicle financing, working capital needs etc.
 - iii) Tax concession to finance companies.
 - iv) Enabling transport companies to issue infrastructure bonds with tax incentives.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.520 for 28-02-2000 asked by Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi regarding Strike by Truck Operators.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND TRUCK OPERATORS

- i) The issue of diesel prices :
It was explained by the Hon`ble Minister that the Government`s position has been stated in the Parliament.
- ii) Declaration of Road Transport as an Industry :
The Hon`ble Minister has agreed to consider this demand sympathetically and take necessary steps in this regard.
- iii) Withdrawal of the Notification dated 11th October, 1999 :
This request has been considered favourably by the Hon`ble Minister and it is proposed to withdraw the amendment.
- iv) Collection of Toll Charges :
As explained by the Hon`ble Minister, the possibility of reviewing the quantum of toll to be collected should be examined in detail. This will be done by a Committee after collection of required details from all concerned.
- v) Fixation of Minimum Freight Rates :
As explained by the Hon`ble Minister, under the Motor Vehicles Act, these powers are with the State Governments. However, keeping in view the strong demand of the All India Motor Transport Congress (AIMTC), the Hon`ble Minister has agreed to request the various States to initiate necessary steps for fixing minimum freight rates for transportation of goods and finalise this preferably within 30 days.
- vi) Reduction in the Quantum of Permit Fee :
As explained by the Hon`ble Minister, according to the Motor Vehicles Act, the quantum of permit fee is determined by the respective State Governments. Considering repeated requests of the AIMTC, the Hon`ble Minister has agreed to include this item in the agenda for the next Transport Development Council(TDC) meeting.

