

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4209
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2011
MODERNISATION OF TRANSPORT SYSTEM
Suvendu Shri Adhikari

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of difficulties being faced by the Union Government towards modernization of Indian Transport System;
- (b) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) the quantum of contribution of transportation to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during the last three years and the current year; and
- (d) the details of the policy undertaken by the Union Government to improve freight distribution system?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (DR. TUSHAR A. CHAUDHARY)

(a) & (b) Government of India has taken a number of steps towards modernisation of various modes of transport viz. air, water, railways and roads, of Indian transport system.

In the civil aviation sector, apart from modernisation of airports, modernisation / upgradation is also being achieved through implementation of India's satellite based navigation system expected to be commissioned by June, 2013, for creating adequate and sufficient communication infrastructure, a) VHF (Very High Frequency) Transmitters & Receivers – to augment and upgrade the communication facilities of air to ground communication, b) DSCN (Dedicated Satellite Communication Network) – To facilitate voice and data communication between airports and c) RCAG (Remote Control Air to Ground) – To augment en-route VHF coverage in terrestrial air space over India have been already installed at many Indian Airports. As modernisation demands that airport infrastructure has to be augmented, there is every reason to replicate the model adopted in the modernisation of Delhi and Mumbai airports with the help of private sector participation.

Government is increasing capacity of the port sector through enhanced private sector investment, increase in capacity utilization and resource mobilization. However, there is a need to improve the efficiency of Indian ports through improvement of productivity parameters, reduction of dwelling time and replacement of obsolete cargo handling equipment by latest equipment.

While rail modernisation network through gauge conversion has progressed, many major train accidents occur at level crossings and due to human failure. Thus, railway safety demands both technological improvement and manpower training. To remove congestion of routes and over saturated line capacity utilisation, its improvement is dependent greatly on the use of upgraded track structure, better maintenance practice, use of improved locomotives and modern signalling technology. Railways programme for modernisation and technical upgradation would increase their freight carrying capacity, enabling a shift from road to rail transport which is crucial for energy efficiency. The modernisation of rail network involving construction of dedicated corridors, doubling of lines, gauge conversion, better management practice, upgraded track structure, modern signalling technology, improved locomotives, training of human resources etc. however requires huge financial resources. Due to financial constraints, PPP model, partnering with State Governments, local bodies or major stakeholders for providing the necessary infrastructure/services should be encouraged in selected and identified areas.

Road transport is considered to be one of the most cost effective and preferred mode of transport, both for freight and passengers, keeping in view its level of penetration into populated areas and last with connectivity. Thus, it is vital to economic development and social integration of the country. Considering the urgent need to improve the quality of transport in rural / mofussil areas, Government has introduced a scheme to provide financial assistance to States/UTs for strengthening public transport system through introduction of information technology related services. In order to facilitate seamless movement of long distance inter-State movement of goods vehicles across the country, a new national permit system has been introduced w.e.f. 8th May 2010. Government has been running various publicity / awareness campaigns on Road Safety through electronic / print media including observance of Road Safety Week. Government also provides road safety equipments, pollution testing equipments, cranes and ambulances for rescue & relief operation in case of road accidents, to States / Union Territories.

(c) As per the quick estimates of National Income (2009-10) released by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on 31.1.2011, the quantum of contribution of transportation (including Railways, Road Transport, Water Transport, Air Transport and Supporting & Auxiliary Transport activities) to the GDP of India in 2009-10 at current prices, for which data is available, is 6.22%.

(d) The economic growth during the Eleventh Plan is likely to average over 8% per annum and we are moving towards even higher sustainable and inclusive growth in the 12th Plan. This growth trajectory will create huge demand for transport including rail freight transportation.

The "Diamond Rail Corridors" Project being executed by Indian Railways through "Dedicated Freight Corridors Corporation of India Limited (DFCC)" a SPV is on the Western and the Eastern routes. The ports in the Western region covering Maharashtra and Gujarat would be efficiently linked to the Northern hinterland and similarly on the Eastern side, coal would move to the power plants in the North. These corridors would also facilitate establishment of industrial corridors alongside and assist in freight distribution.

With a view to streamline the process of transportation trade by road and to meet the modern day requirements, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has enacted the Carriage by Road Act which has come into effect from 01.03.2011.