



IMPORTANCE OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND ROADWAYS IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Road transport means carrying men and materials from one place to another place on the public or private roadways. Road transport is the fastest mode of transport to travel and deliver the goods quickly by the use of roads laid down by modern sophisticated technology. Road transport is the only transport which is simple and cheapest to reach all the places including remote areas. Road transport is the movement of people, goods or animals on road using vehicles like cars, buses, trucks, motor cycles, bicycles and carts.

KEY WORDS: Road transport, Roadways, Highways, Vehicles, Technology

INTRODUCTION

Road transport is the movement of people and goods from one place to another place through the use of different roadways as quickly as possible with a nominal charges or cost. Present Indian roadways facilitates to reach the concerned destination within the guessed time. Road transport is the most believable, simple and economic mode of transport. Roadways is the part of the road on which the vehicles are driven. A strip of land over which a road passes. It is a passage cleared for vehicle travel. Roadways are laid by the use of advanced construction technology viewing all the seasons and weather conditions. There is a separate expert specialized Engineering Branch called Transportation Engineering for maintenance of roadways by an advanced construction technology. Central and State Governments is giving education on transportation concrete technology for making a good road.

TYPES OF ROAD TRANSPORT

The following are different types of road transport. They are –

1. **Human Transport:** People used to carry goods on their heads and shoulders from one place to another they want to reach. Even now it is existed for a short distance.
2. **Animal Transport:** It was existed in olden days but now it is avoided.
3. **Rickshaws:** Are used to carry people and light weighted goods from one place to another.
4. **Trucks:** Trucks are used to carry heavy weighted goods for long and as well as short distances by maintaining a temperature required till unloading.
5. **Buses:** Buses can transport the people with a light carrying luggage to the place they want to reach. In luxury buses AC is adopted, comfortable seating arrangements and the speed is also high compared with general buses.
6. **Motorcars:** Motorcars are used for personal private travel both men and a light weighted luggage.
7. **Motorcycles:** Motorcycles are used to travel for a short distance as a personal vehicle.
8. **Bicycles:** Bicycles are used by peddling to travel for a short distance.
9. **Carts:** Bullock or horse carts are also used to travel and transport the goods for a short distance.

TYPES OF ROADWAYS

There are six types of roadways. They are –

1. **Super Highways:** Which are also called as Express Highways. They are Urban roads meant for high speed driving to transport goods, food and for allowing people to travel for business, vacation and other purposes. Multi-lane highway with controlled entrances and exits.
2. **National Highways:** Connect State Capitals, industries, tourist centres, major cities and rail junctions. These are built and maintained by National Highway Authority of India under the supervision of Central Public Works Department.
3. **State Highways:** Connect National Highways, major cities within the State, District Headquarters. These are built and maintained by State Public Works Department.
4. **District Roads:** Connect the neighbouring Districts within the State by covering Taluk Headquarters. These are built and maintained by State Zilla Panchayats.
5. **Rural Roads:** Single lane roads that connect nearby villages and remote areas. These are built and maintained by Panchayats or Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojna (PMGSY).
6. **Border Roads:** These are built and maintained by the Border Roads Organization (BRO) on the Country's North and North-east borders.

Roadways support the vehicles and people to move from one place to another. Roads in India has a network of over 6,331,791 kilometers of road. It is the second largest road network in the world, after the United States.

FEATURES OF ROAD TRANSPORT

1. It offers full freedom to the road users to travel from one place to another.
2. It is the simple, quick and easy way of transportation of men, materials and machineries etc.
3. It provides a good service to agricultural area by transporting goods.
4. Roads are used by different classes of vehicles including carts, animals and human beings.
5. It provides door to door delivery service to all the people.
6. Maintenance cost of roads is very low.
7. Construction cost of roads is also low when compared with other modes of transport.
8. Roadways are easy to build.
9. It is the only transport which has an access to reach railways, waterways and airways.
10. They are safe and secure.
11. It is also speedy and comfortable compared with water transport.
12. Railway transport, Water transport and Air transport are always dependent on the road transport.

ADVANTAGES OF ROAD TRANSPORT

1. Less capital investment is required in road transport compared with other modes of transport.
2. It facilitates for door to door delivery.
3. It is more flexible to connect the rural areas which is not possible by other modes of transport.
4. This is most suitable for individual needs and for all the areas.
5. It is most suitable for short distances.
6. There is less risk and damage in transit.
7. The process of packing in road transport is also less.
8. It is most suited for speedy delivery of goods.
9. It allows all the businessmen and companies to have their own vehicles.
10. It is helpful for other modes of transport for loading and unloading the goods.
11. It generates employment opportunities to the people of the Country.
12. Personal services are possible through road transport.
13. It is the most dependable transport.

DISADVANTAGES OF ROAD TRANSPORT

1. It is not suitable during rainy season or floods. Roads become unfit and unsafe.
2. There is definitely high risk of accidents and breakdowns continuously noticed.
3. It is not fit for longer distance.
4. It is clearly understood that road transport is not as fast as air or rail transport.
5. The rates charged are random, unstable and unequal.
6. It is not safe and secure.
7. Most of the roads are in bad condition, shape and are inadequate.
8. There is heavy tax burden on the vehicles in India. Users have to pay more taxes and other charges.
9. Roads are not properly maintained in India.
10. Rising cost of petrol and diesel also rises cost of transportation.
11. It is not suitable to carry bulky goods.
12. Rural roads are still under bad condition. They have not yet developed.

WHY THE ROAD TRANSPORT IS IMPORTANT?

Road transport is a vital part of the life. It is most essential transport because it is economical, flexible and accessible which can connect all the places including remote areas. It is cheaper for short distances. It is again flexible because routes and timings can be changed easily and quickly allowing people and goods to reach their destination within the expected time. It is important for generation of employment opportunities. The only transport without which the other transports like railway transport, water transport and air transport will not be existed.

WHY THE ROADWAYS ARE IMPORTANT?

Roadways are important for different types of vehicles to transport men and materials from one place to another place on an economical way over a short distance including goods like fruits, vegetables and other greeneries. They are important to connect cities, towns and villages providing link to railway station, airport and sea ports. They are important for industries to get raw-materials and supply finished goods. They increase employment opportunities and promote tourism by increasing revenue to the Government. They can be constructed very easily wherever necessary to travel including terrains, hilly areas, mountains and steep slopes. Roadways are the only ways on which the other ways are dependent.

MEASURES TO BE TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES IN ROAD TRANSPORT AND LAYING ROADWAYS

1. In order to reduce congestion in the cities, heavy trucks and other goods vehicles have to pass through by bypass roads.
2. To avoid heavy traffic fly overs in thickly populated cities, have to be built along the line.
3. Driving licence has to be given only after a thorough test who fulfils all the conditions.
4. Scrap/outdated/obsolete vehicles should not be permitted to play on the roads.
5. Speed limit and other cautious instructions based on the areas like school zones, forest areas, accident prone areas, have to be displayed.
6. Central and State Governments have to frame suitable policies and procedures to create awareness for vehicle riders.
7. Roads have to be built by cement concrete (CC roads) to make it strong and durable.
8. Minors and who are not able to ride the vehicle due to old age, should not be permitted to ride and heavy penalties have to be charged on the parents of the minors.

IS THE PRESENT ROAD TRANSPORT BY DIFFERENT ROADWAYS IS CONVENIENT TO FULFILL THE NEEDS OF ALL THE PEOPLE?

Yes, in the present day context, roadways like National Highways, Express Highways, State Highways and District Highways are built, repaired and maintained by the use of advanced technology. Concrete technology is adopted in building the roads which makes it easy for speeding up of vehicles. Present roads (CC roads) are built forecasting the longevity. Strategic plan is adopted in building highways for speedy and safe movement of vehicles. Present highways are durable and suitable for all the seasonal conditions. We can see improved developments of roadways as compared to earlier times like increased lanes of roads which speeds up the vehicular speed, enough street lights which permits safe driving even at dark time, instruction boards such as median ahead, a board with direction signs, number of kilometers ahead etc., which guides the driver to drive safe and reach his destination without any confusion, information boards such as petrol bunk ahead, hospital ahead, toll plaza ahead etc., and also we can see and LED TV installed at some points of roads which reminds us to wear seat belts while driving car and helmet while driving bike so that accident rates can be decreased.

Drastic changes have taken place in the manufacture of different classes of vehicles suitable to different roadways for all the seasons. Engines are manufactured by using sophisticated technology to carry heavy loaded and weighted goods even for a longer distance. As the roadways are widened by two lanes, three lanes, four lanes up to eight lanes, reduces number of accidents and breakdowns. Present vehicles are atmosphere friendly which are causing less pollution. Greeneries are observed in the road side by planting number of trees for cool and calm temperature while driving. Instead of depending on petrol and diesel, slowly electric powered vehicles are used on the roads with a power charging points located at convenient

highways. In so far as passenger vehicles are concerned, smart power geared with AC buses and cars are built for a pleasurable journey. Passengers feel a pleasurable journey without a strain and stress.

Driving license is given to the riders only after a thorough test drive by the concerned State Road Transport Officers which is very essential for a safe and smart driving. Highways are monitored 24x7 days by cameras fixed at different places and through satellites and highway patrol. In rainy season roads are dried immediately after the stoppage of rain without storage of water because the technology adopted is so advanced. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) continuously supervises all the Highways and takes immediate steps to renovate or patch up the damaged roads. Roads are built within the estimated time schedule as the standards specified by the NHAI.

CONCLUSION

Road transport system plays a very vital role in the development of India by carrying people and goods from one place to another. Roadways are the most important sector for socio-economic development of a Nation. It connects the people across the Country to share the information, exchange the goods and to know one another better by removing language barrier and financial imbalances. Roadways, by covering all the areas in the Country, facilitates for peaceful and comfortable living. It removes all the imbalances of people living in different regions of the Country and uplift the standard of living of the people. Rural development is possible only by roadways. Roadways can be easily constructed in all the routes wherever there is a necessity.

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