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"ROADS NETWORK IN INDIA"



V. P. Suryawanshi¹ and Shrikrishna Chandanshiv²

INTRODUCTION :

Roadways of India has helped enhance the productivity of certain areas and contributed to the evolving of a more competitive infrastructure and economy on a world level. Road transport in India or roadways transport contributes to 60 per cent freight or cargo transport and 80 per cent passenger transport of India. These include roadways buses, roadways express services, transport both public and commercial systems and others. Special buses of Indian roadways equipped with automated speed enforcement systems are gaining popularity and also the attention of various state governments owing to the rising cases of

ABSTRACT

Road transport in India or roadways transport contributes to 60 per cent freight or cargo transport and 80 per cent passenger transport of India. India's road network of 3.34 million km is the second-largest in the world. Out of this, national highways account for 65,590 km, state highways for 1.3 lakh km, and major district roads, rural and urban roads collectively account for 3.14 million km. Between 2006 and 2009, the national highway network increased by 4,000 km and the state highway network increased by 170,000 km. Of the total length of the national highway network, about 27 per cent is single-laned or intermediate-laned, 54 per cent is two-laned and 19 per cent per cent is four-laned. The state highways and major district roads carry 40 per cent of total road traffic and constitute 13 per cent of India's total road length. Among the different categories of roads, National Highways constitute around 2 per cent, State Highways 4 per cent while 94 per cent of the entire network comprises DR, VR and BR. Out of these, PWD Roads are 21 per cent, Urban Roads 7 per cent and the rest of the road length in India is accounted for by the rural roads.

KEYWORDS :Roads Network , PWD Roads , Urban Roads

SHORT PROFILE

V. P. Suryawanshi is working as an Associate Professor at Department of Commerce in Arts, Commerce and Science College, Naldurg, Dist. Osmanabad. road accidents due to uncontrolled speeds of the roadwaystransport.

Roads Network in India:

India's road network of 3.34 million km is the second-largest in the world. Out of this, national highways account for 65,590 km, state highways for 1.3 lakh km, and major district roads, rural and urban roads collectively account for 3.14 million km, as per statistics with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. According to the ministry, roads remain the most important means of transport, accounting for 85 per cent and 65 per cent of passenger and freight traffic, respectively, in India. Broadly, the road

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network in India is divided into the primary system comprising national highways and the secondary system made up of state highways and major district roads. In addition, the network comprises expressways as well as rural and other roads.

National highways account for a mere 2 per cent of the total road length, but carry 40 per cent of the total road traffic. Between 2006 and 2009, the national highway network increased by 4,000 km and the state highway network increased by 170,000 km. Of the total length of the national highway network, about 27 per cent is single-laned or intermediate-laned, 54 per cent is two-laned and 19 per cent per cent is fourlaned. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is planning to seek credit worth USD 2.96 billion from the World Bank for the conversion of single-laned, intermediate-laned and two-laned roads covering a total length of about 3,770 km. The project is scheduled for completion in 2014. The state highways and major district roads carry 40 per cent of total road traffic and constitute 13 per cent of India's total road length. The 11th Five-Year Plan (2007–2012) has projected an investment requirement of USD 8,613.95 million for the development of rural roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.

India has more than 3.3 million km of road network, making it one of the largest in the world of which rural roads i.e. 2.65 million. In 2000 Average Distance - 2 km from a village but, wide variation across states/districts. However, the quality of the roads is inappropriate and cannot meet the needs of efficient and fast moving transportation. The total road length in India has increased significantly from 0.399 million kms as in 1951 to 3.38 million kms as in 2004. The surfaced road lengths have also increased from 0.157 million kms to around 1.604 million kms in the same period. Surface length constitutes 47.3 per cent of total road length in 2004. National Highways that are the prime arterial route span cater to about 45 per cent of the total road transport demand. The entire network is classified into five distinct categories from the viewpoint of management and administration is - National Highways (NH), State Highways (SH), District Roads (DR), Village Roads (VR), Border Roads (BR).

Among the different categories of roads, National Highways constitute around 2 per cent, State Highways 4 per cent while 94 per cent of the entire network comprises DR, VR and BR. Out of these, PWD Roads are 21 per cent, Urban Roads 7 per cent and the rest of the road length in India is accounted for by the rural roads. Development and maintenance of National Highways is under the purview of the Centre, all other categories of roads come under the purview of the respective States and UT. National Highways constitute only 2 per cent of the entire road network; they carry about 40 per cent of the freight and passengers. The National Highways cover near about every state of India. They are the vital lifelines of the economy making possible trade and commerce. The National Highways besides connecting the major cites of important towns and commercial hubs. There are 259 National Highways on the basis of their route numbers. However, the construction and up keeping of roads is one of the country's most continuous and expensive tasks. Driven by the ambition to connect the various regions of the country with high quality motor able roads, the Ministry of Surface Transport so far has laid down a stretch of 65,559 km of national highways in the country distributed over various states.

Table : Status of Roads in India.

Sr.	Particulars of Roads	K.M.
1	National Highways/Expressways	65,590 km
2	State Highways	1,28,000 km
3	Major and other District Roads	4,70,000 km
4	Rural Roads	26,50,000 km

The National Highways have a length of

about 57,737 km. throughout the country and 65,590 km and run across the length and

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breadth of India facilitating medium and long distance inter- city passenger & freight traffic. Though they comprise about 2 per cent of the road network, they carry about 40 per cent of the road based traffic. State Highways and Major District Roads constitute the secondary system of road infrastructure of India. The State Highways provide linkages with the National Highways, district headquarters, important towns, tourist centers and minor ports and carry the traffic along major centers within the State. Their total length is about 137,711 km. Major District Roads run within the district, connecting areas of production with markets, rural areas to the district headquarters and to State/National Highways. By acting as the link between the rural and urban areas, the State Highways and Major District Roads contribute significantly to the development of the rural economy and industrial growth of India. It is assessed that the secondary system caries about 40 per cent of the total road traffic and comprises about 20 per cent of the total road length.12

cent of India's total road length. Among the The scheme announced by the Government in 1995 was a much-needed step different categories of roads, National Highways and recognized the importance of a proper road constitute around 2 per cent, State Highways 4 network. In it, Rs.200 crore was allocated as per cent while 94 per cent of the entire network commencement capital to the National Highway comprises DR, VR and BR. Out of these, PWD Authority of India to enable it to construct Roads are 21 per cent, Urban Roads 7 per cent subways, bridges etc. Roads are definitely a cost and the rest of the road length in India is efficient and popular mode of transport. It accounted for by the rural roads. stretches across the length and breadth of a country and can be used by different sections of **REFERENCES:** society. It helps in the movement of men and 1.Ahluwalia, I.J. (2011) - Report on Indian Urban material from one mode to another. It forges national unity and is instrumental in the nation's Infrastructure and Services. Ministry of Urban socio economic development. It acts as a support Development, Government of India, New Delhi. 2.Padam, S. and Singh, S.K. (2004) system to other means of transport like railways, shipping, airways etc. Hence a well developed Urbanization and Urban Transport in India: The roadway is vital for promoting commercial Search for a Policy - International Journal of interest of the country. India has one of the Transport Economics, Engineering and Law, vol. largest road networks in the world, aggregating to 27. about 33 lakh kilometers at present. Though the National Highways, which is the responsibility of

over 40 percent of the total traffic across the length and breadth of the country.

CONCLUSIONS

Road transport in India or roadways transport contributes to 60 per cent freight or cargo transport and 80 per cent passenger transport of India. India's road network of 3.34 million km is the second-largest in the world. Out of this, national highways account for 65,590 km, state highways for 1.3 lakh km, and major district roads, rural and urban roads collectively account for 3.14 million km. Between 2006 and 2009, the national highway network increased by 4,000 km and the state highway network increased by 170,000 km. Of the total length of the national highway network, about 27 per cent is single-laned or intermediate-laned, 54 per cent is two-laned and 19 per cent per cent is four-laned. The state highways and major district roads carry 40 per cent of total road traffic and constitute 13 per

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