

IMPORTANCE OF ROAD TRANSPORT UNDERRATED

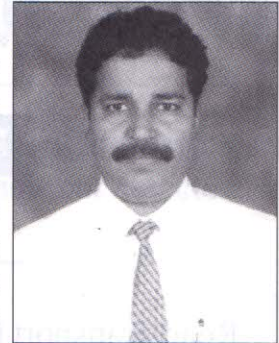
Besides increasing labour costs, road transport also has to contend with high insurance premium, new rules by the Government on phasing out of vehicles, etc. Therefore the problems for road transport are aplenty and there doesn't seem any respite in sight.

*Dilip Naik**

I have been in the transportation business for over 20 years now and during these years we have had to face stiff competition within the industry and there is always a question mark on survival. Although many new transporters have sprung up in the last few years, many more are closing their shutters because of unhealthy competition. We all know how important road transport is for the economy and progress of this country. However neither the Government nor the industry (consignor/consignee) has acknowledged the importance of road transport.

A part of the blame for the current situation of road transport would go to the globalisation policy of the Government. Because of globalisation, all industries are facing stiff competition and in order to survive have had to

undertake cost cutting measures. Surprisingly when it comes to cost cutting, the industry first thinks of road transport. However we have stood tall to the demands of the industry and have accepted the cost cutting policies of the industry. But it is not possible to accommodate the cost cutting exercise any further because operation costs have been increasing steadily, mainly due to steep increase in prices of diesel.



Although the industry is capable of carrying out cost cutting measures, road transport does not have any such liberties. Take for instance the handling of cargo. Although we are a developing country and are making extensive use of information technology and modern engineering, the handling of cargo is still dependent on human labour. The unskilled labour force is available in huge numbers in the country, so much so that even the Government is forced or is willingly safeguarding their interests, above that of road transport. To add to this, the socialistic pattern of the governance has ensured that there is no kind of competition in this segment and the labour force are able to dictate terms on the road transport industry. The country may have made considerable progress in various other fields, but when it comes to handling of cargo, the age old system is still very much in place. The labour charges have increased manifold over the years and currently in some cases it is more than the freight rate being charged by a transporter on a particular route.

Besides increasing labour costs, road transport also has to contend with high insurance premium, new rules by the Government on phasing out of vehicles, etc. Therefore the problems for road transport are aplenty and there doesn't seem any respite in sight.

Bombay Goods Transport Association has been a commendable job under the leadership of the young and able Mahendra Arya. Alongwith his team, Mahendra has been doing a very good job and the current team is doing

its best to upgrade the present position of the transport industry by way of organising workshops, attending conferences organised by various industries and then passing on the message to the members, etc. They are also taking steps to ensure that the Government bodies understand the problems of the transport industry.

We are pleased to know that Transtopics is completing 39 years of its service to the automobile and road transport industry. I congratulate the entire team of Transtopics and look forward to the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Transtopics.

(* Dilip Naik is the Managing Director of Reema Transport P Ltd.)

From the Editorial Archives of Transtopics

Road Transport

Road Transport Industry is a fast developing industry which is paying a bigger and bigger part in our national economy. It is therefore, imperative that obstacles which hinder the progress of the road transport industry should be removed immediately.

September 12, 1974

Other carry Load.....

We carry Responsibility & trust



CHOWGULE INDUSTRIES LIMITED
(Authorised Dealer For Swaraj mazda)

Opp. Damodar Temple, Fatorda
Margao - Goa. 403 602.
Phone : (0832) 2743219, 2741238
Telefax : (0832) 2741238

