

Transport



Role of Transport in Economic Development
Part A

Introduction

- ❖ The *prosperity of a country* depends directly upon the *development of agriculture and industry*
- ❖ *Agricultural production*, however *requires* irrigation, power, credit, transport facilities etc

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- ❖ *Industrial Production* requires not only machinery and equipment but also *skilled man power, management, energy, banking and insurance facilities, marketing facilities, transport services* which include *railways, roads, and shipping, communication facilities etc*

Significance of Transport

- ❖ If *agriculture and industry* are regarded as *the backbone of the economy*, *transport and communications* constitute its nerves which help the circulation of men and materials
- ❖ The *transport system* helps to *broaden the market for goods* and by doing so, it makes possible *large scale production* through *division of labour*

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- ❖ It is also *essential for the movement of raw materials, fuel, machinery etc. to places of production*
- ❖ The more *extensive and continuous* the production in *any branch of activity*, the greater will be the *need for transport facilities*

Growth of transport system since 1951

- ❖ *Rail and Road Transport* systems dominate but other forms of transport are *also important* within their specialised areas considering the *size of the country and its geographical features*

- ❖ *The transport sector has recorded a substantial growth since the introduction of economic planning in 1950-51*
- ❖ *Railways have recorded a growth of 3 percent per annum in freight originating tonnage, though the growth in route length was indeed low*

- ❖ The *road network* has expanded at an annual rate of *5 percent*
- ❖ *Road transport fleet* has increased by *7 percent* per annum in respect of *goods and vehicles*
- ❖ *About 70 percent* of the *Indian villages* have been connected by a network of *rural roads*

- ❖ *Over 40 percent of our villages are served by all weather roads*
- ❖ *Shipping tonnage has increased by an impressive 11 percent while coastal shipping could register only a meagre rise of 1.4 percent*

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