

ROLE AND OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION  
IN ASSAM.

Transport and communication is a vital infrastructure ~~for~~ of a modern economy. . . . Assam being the gateway of North East India, the need for the development of transport and communication sector in the state is of vital importance for the speedy economic development of the region.

ROAD TRANSPORT: In Assam at present, there are two roads cum rail bridges and one road bridge over the river Brahmaputra. Roadways Assam has a total length of approximately 69,000 kms covering both metallic and non-metallic surfaces. That accounts for approximately 60% of road length in North-East.

Due to its geographical location, transport has been a major bottleneck in the process of the economic progress of the state.

PROBLEMS OF ROAD TRANSPORT : Some of the important problems of the road transport are as follows:

- ① UNSURFACED ROADS:
- ② HEAVY TAXES
- ③ NO PROPER MAINTENANCE
- ④ BRIDGE CONDITION
- ⑤ LESS ROADS IN RURAL ASSAM
- ⑥ BAD CONDITION OF ROADS

### RAILWAYS:

The Ministry of Railways has taken various developmental activities in the railway sector in the state including extension of railway lines to link other North Eastern States. As per the information of the N.E. Railway Head Quarters, Maligaon, Guwahati in 2009-10 the railway route in Assam was 2433.34 Kms comprising of 1376.22 Kms under Broad Gauge and 1057.12 kms under Meter gauge. The proportion of Broad Gauge railway route length in the state, although, is 56.56 kms under Broad Gauge percent, it shares only 2.62 percent of the country's total broad gauge railway route length.

### Problems of Rail transport:

- ① Railway track are not strong.
- ② Nos of bridges.
- ③ Roadway track are not strong

### ATR TRANSPORT:

Assam is well connected with the rest of the country with air transport. The state has the highest number of operational civil airports and there are located Guwahati, Dibrugarh, Tezpur, Lakhait, North Lakhimpur and Silchar. All major airlines operate flights to and from Guwahati. There are regular inter state services also.

The Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi international Airport, Guwahati is the only international Airport in ~~Guwahati~~ North East India.

### Problem of Air transport in Assam:

- ① Number of Air traffic Movement is not sufficient.
- ② Regional Connectivity
- ③ Expensive fares

### Inland Water Transport:

Assam is a state full of rivers. As much of

as 82 per cent of the water resource of the country flow down through the river Brahmaputra, Barak and their tributaries means a vast network of waterways in the state.

The Government owned organisations - Central Inland Waterways Corporation and Directorate of Inland Water Transport (IWT), Assam, are operating water transport services on the river Brahmaputra and Barak in commercial basis. These services are used for the transportation of passengers and goods alike. The IWT Department has introduced 61 nos of cargo cum passenger service in Assam for transportation of commuters throughout the north and corner of the state. Besides these, Government owned organisations, large number of private owners conduct ferry services which are commonly known as

un-organised sector.

### Problems of Water Transport:

- ① Reduced flow of water in the river Brahmaputra and make it difficult for even steamers to ply.
- ② There is reduced navigability due to situation, as in the main river.
- ③ The number of steamers is limited.
- ④ Condition of private bhut-bhuti is very poor.
- ⑤ Condition of port is very poor.
- ⑥ It carries more passengers than its capacity.

The transportation sector plays an important role in Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). The share of the transport sector indicates its importance to the economy of the state.