

THE GANDHIDHAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

(ESTD. 1953)

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No. GCCI/ 2 74

Date: 25.07.2018

Shri Nitin Gadkari, Hon. Minister of Road Transport Highway & Shipping, Transport Bhawan – 1, Sansad Marg, New Delhi – 110 001

Sub: Effect on Trade & Economy due to All India Transporter's Strike

Dear Sir,

As you are very well aware, transporter's strike at PAN India level has entered 7th day resulting stoppage of movement of goods from one point to another. The emerging situation is leading towards grinding halt of all economic activities. However, it seems central government has not taken any note of it nor the government initiated any process for the resolution of the same.

As we are located at Kandla – Gandhidham complex of Kachchh District, Gujarat, we are in a better position to narrate and brief you about the present scenario on account of transporter's strike.

- 1) Almost all loading unloading activities are stopped at India's two leading ports namely Kandla & Mundra.
- 2) The movement of essential items like salt, edible oil, fertilisers, vegetables, grain, etc. are stopped.
- 3) Being 7th day of the strike, fear and dismal atmosphere prevails everywhere.
- 4) On passing each day, stock of each and every item touches at rock bottom level. This will push the price of all items & industrial inputs upwards day by day. This scenario will give free hand to black marketers and ultimately Indian Public will be looted.
- 5) Adverse impact on foreign exchange, international trade which will pull down our economy and various parameters like GDP.
- 6) In light of present transporter strike, foreign buyers have already started cancelling export orders presuming that there will be no timely execution of export order from Indian exporter.
- 7) At local level there is shortage of raw material for building construction.

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We are of the firm opinion that the following demand of transport fraternity certainly deserve review & reconsideration immediately.

1. Toll Barrier Free

In present road transport scenario, toll arrangement turns out to be a hindrance for the quick movement of goods from one point to another. Even new GST scenario also tries to avoid facility of toll naka for smooth running of transportation of the goods.

2. Toll Naka Problems

It is a common problem at toll nakas of our country about traffic jam and time consuming passing process. This scenario leads to wastage of fuel and time.

3. Rationalisation of fuel prices

At present fuel prices are decided on daily basis which disturbs coasting and freight market. As a matter of fact there is acute need to rationalise and revision should be done at three months rather than present approach of daily revision.

4. Higher premium on third party insurance

Now third party insurance for transport vehicles is made compulsory. But the rate of premium seems to be on higher side. This needs to be reviewed and reasonably less premium amount should be levied.

At present the strike is going on with peace but any time the scenario may change and transporter may resort to damaging vehicles and other public property. Transport business is unorganised trade and thousand peoples of different ideology are involved. Hence, any time mob reaction may emerge leading to law and order problem.

In view of the above, our chamber request you to initiate immediately corrective measures and also start negotiation with transport fraternity and arrive at amicable solution in the larger interest of our country and people at large.

We hope, you will take up our voice in right & positive spirit so that innocent people of this country can get rid of unexpected problems if the transporter strike persists for longer period.

Thanking you.

Yours faithfully,

3.B. A-V

Babubhai Humbal President