

Message from the Minister for Industries, Production & Special Initiatives

It gives me a lot of pleasure to present the Trucking Policy document. A subject which remains relatively less attended but otherwise required immediate attention for a prosperous Pakistan, ready to compete globally. Improving the trade and logistics competitiveness is a key concern of the Government of Pakistan as the quality, cost and efficiency of logistics is becoming increasingly important to attract investment, exploit the potential of regional supply hub and to save high wastages on account of cross-sectional deficiencies.

The initiative of the GoP to draw National Trade Corridor Improvement Programme (NTCIP) is very timely and focuses on modernizing the trade and logistics of the country to make Pakistan the hub of regional economic activities. Strategic thrust of NTCIP remains to gain competitive advantage in the fast globalizing world and to enhance efficiencies through provision of world class infrastructure, efficient logistic chain and smooth interface between the Public and Private Sectors.

In the pervue of this, the importance of Road Freight Industry in the economic land scope of Pakistan is undeniable. I believe that geographical location of Pakistan can make it a regional hub for international trade by integrating it with international transport systems, provided competitiveness of the domestic trade and distribution systems are improved by replacing the existing trucking fleet with modern, environment friendly trucks and Prime movers. This is imperative to reduce the cost to the economy being incurred in the form of road damages, higher fuel cost slow movement of goods and increasing traffic accidents. A comprehensive policy initiative was needed to address all the interrelated issues pertains to road freight sector.

In the back of the above, when the Task Force on NTCIP mandated Ministry of Industries, Production and Special Initiatives to carryout the job of "Modernization of the Trucking Sector" we took it as a challenge upon ourselves. Year long serious efforts of MoIP&SI and EDB have now borne fruits and a comprehensive policy document is before you, prepared after the keen involvement of all the stakeholders in this sector including the Provincial Governments.

Declaring Trucking Sector an "Industry" was a long standing demand of the stakeholders in this sector. GoP has very kindly consented to our proposal and "Trucking" has been declared as an Industry. The benefits of which shall be drawn by getting an access to the formal finances from Commercial Banks and Leasing Companies to upgrade the present obsolete fleet. Moreover, revamping of Motor Vehicle Registration System (MVRS) and creation of a Central Data Repository (CDR) shall bring consolidation and integration of the MVRS operating in Provinces. Motor Vehicle Examination (MVE) and regular Fitness Testing has been acknowledged as an essential component of the modernization and need of its revamping has been realized by all in this sector.

Establishing Modern Drivers Training Institutes for training and re-training of the Truck drivers has also been taken up in the Policy along with establishment of Modern Trans Freight Stations and Industrial Estates for Truck/ Bus Body Makers. Government has already approved a long term Policy for the Auto Sector, which covers the tariff rationalization for trucks/ Prime movers and trailers for the next five years and a new policy for the import of used vehicles has been announced in the Trade Policy 2007-08. The stage is now set for the operators to get hold of the opportunities arising in this conducive environment, fully supported by the Policy Regime to modernize the Trucking Sector.

I eulogize the efforts of all in the MoIP&SI and EDB who have consistently worked to frame this policy document.

Mr. Salman Taseer