

Railways not to impact road freight sector, believes road transport



D P Agarwal

Mamata Banerjee has not increased freight rates for transportation of goods and it is believed that the same has been done to give railways an edge over road transport in terms of cost. With diesel prices being hiked at around the same time, it is unlikely that railways does not enjoy an advantage.

However road transport does not believe that is the case, atleast **Ashok Goel** (Managing Director - BLR India) doesn't. According to Mr Goel, "There will be no effect. The railways is very rigid while we are flexible and excel in customer services. The railways can't give last mile connectivity, so customers prefer us though the cost is high." Citing further advantages of road transport, he said that companies other than steel and cement manufacturers would stay with road transport. Besides assuring timely delivery, road transport also gives credit, added Mr Goel.

Mr D P Agarwal (Vice Chairman & MD - Transport Corporation of India) shares a similar view point, but with a difference. According to Mr Agarwal, "The end customer will benefit with better coordination between rail and road sectors, with the timely and efficient execution of the initiatives announced. We strongly believe that road and rail collectively can enhance productivity and efficiency of the Indian Logistics Industry."



Ashok Goel

There is no doubt that road transport enjoys certain inherent advantages over railways, which would always ensure that road transport is in demand. However railways is trying very hard to grab as much portion as possible of the freight pie. We hope that like the railway ministry is pushing hard to increase its market share, the road transport ministry too should work out programmes that would attract customers to use road transport.

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