CH 7: LIFELINES OF NATIONAL ECONOMY

Q.1 why are the means of transportation and communication called the lifelines of a nation and its economy?
Ans. The means of transportation and communication are called the lifelines of a nation and its economy due to the reasons given below:

a) The means of transportation and communication help in the production and movement of goods and services.
b) Transport helps in the development of communication. Various means of communication help us in interacting with other in all the parts of the world. It has brought the world closer.
c) Transport like railways helps us in conducting various activities like business, sightseeing, pilgrimage and transportation of goods over longer distances.
d) Pipelines are used for transporting crude oil and natural gas to refineries and factories.
e) Water provides the cheapest means of transport and is useful for international trade.
f) Air transport provides the fastest, most comfortable mode of transport.

Thus, it is clear that there are many advantages of transportation and communication. These means help in the development of the country. So they are rightly called the lifelines of a nation and its economy.

Q.2 “Roadways have an edge over railways”. How?
Ans. Roadways have an edge over railways due to following reasons:

(a) The construction cost of roadway is much lower than that of the railways. Its maintenance is also cheap and easy.
(b) Roads can be built in mountainous areas. The roads can traverse comparatively more dissected and undulating topography. Roads can negotiable higher gradients of slopes and as such can traverse mountains such as the Himalayas.
(c) Road transport is economical in transportation of few persons and relatively smaller amount of goods over short distances.
(d) It provides door to door services, which results in lower cost of loading and unloading.
(e) It is used as a feeder to other modes of transport such as they provide a link between railway stations, air and sea ports.
(f) Road transport connects fields with markets and factories.
(g) Road transport is useful for transport of perishable commodities.

Q.3 what is the significance of border roads?
Ans. Significance of Border roads: Border Roads are very significant for the security of the country. These roads are constructed and maintained by the Border Roads Organization which is a Government of India undertaking. The reasons for its significance are as given below:

(a) Its helps in the security of the country because in case of necessity, army can be deployed in the sensitive border areas easily and quickly e.g., northern and north-eastern border areas of strategic importance.
(b) It has provided access in the areas of difficult terrain.
(c) It helps in the economic development of the area.

Q.4 Describe Golden Quadrilateral Super Highways with special reference to its objects and the North-South and East-West corridors.
Ans. (i) Golden Quadrilateral Super Highways is a major and road development project linking Delhi-Kolkata-Chennai-Mumbai and Delhi by six lane Super Highways.
(ii) The object of these Super Highways is to meet the requirements of fast movement of traffic in the country and to reduce the time and distance between the mega cities of India.
(iii) North-South corridor connects Srinagar to Kanyakumari.
(iv) East-West Corridor connects Silchar to Porbandar.
(v) These highway projects are being implemented by the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI).

Q.5. Give a brief description of National Highways in India.
Ans. (i) National Highways link extreme parts of the country including one state with another.
(ii) These are primary road systems of national importance. Therefore, these are constructed and maintained by the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) of the central government.
(iii) A number of major National Highways run in North-South and East West directions.
(iv) The historical Sher Shah Suri Marg, between Delhi and Amritsar is called National Highway No.1
(v) National Highway-7 is the longest and Travesses 2,369 km between Varanasi and Kanyakumari via Jabalpur,
Nagpur, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Madurai.
(vi) National Highway-8 connects Delhi and Mumbai and National Highway-15 covers most of Rajasthan.

Q.6 Describe the problems that are being faced in road transportation in India.
Ans. The problems that are being faced in road transportation in Indian are as given below:
(i) Inadequate network in view of the volume of traffic and passengers.
(ii) Half of the roads are unmetalled that cannot be used using rainy season.
(iii) National Highways are inadequate to meet the rush of traffic.
(iv) Roads in the cities are highly congested.
(v) Most of the bridges and culverts are old and narrow.
(vi) Roadside amenities like emergency health services, police protection on the highways are not adequate.
The above problems need immediate attention of the government to make road transport more popular and useful in the country.

Q.7 “Railways are the principal mode of transportation in India” Explain.
Ans. The railways are the main artery of inland transport in India. It is the lifeline of the country as mentioned below:
(i) Railways are the principal mode of transportation for freight and passengers.
(ii) The Indian Railways have a network of 7,031 stations, 7,817 locomotives, 5,321 passenger service vehicles, 4,904 other coach vehicles and 228,170 wagons as on 31st March, 2004.
(iii) The total length of railways is 63,221 km.
(iv) Railways are useful in conducting business, sightseeing, and pilgrimage along with transportation of goods over longer distances.
(v) It is the largest public undertaking in the country.
Thus, it is clear that the railways are playing an important role in our economy than all other means of transport put together.

Q.8. what are the problems being faced by the Indian railways.
Ans. The following problems are being faced by the railways:
   Travelling without tickets -Many people travel without ticket that leads to financial loss.
   (ii)Theft and damaging School property : People steal different fittings of the wagons, passenger coaches etc.
some people cause damage to railway property.
   (iii)Unnecessary Stopping of trains: Just to catch the train or for some other minor reason, people pull the chain unnecessarily. Such actions delay the train in reaching its destination in time.

Q.9. Write a short note on the pipeline transport and its network in India.
Ans. (i) Uses: Earlier pipelines were used to transport water to cities and industries. Now, pipelines are being used for transporting crude oil, petroleum products and natural gas from oil and natural gas fields to oil refineries, fertilizer factories and big thermal power plants.
Advantages: (a) Crude oil and other petroleum products can be transported to far away inland locations like Baruani and Panipat.
(b) Pipelines have proved beneficial for gas based fertilizer plants.
(c) Solids can also be transported through a pipeline when converted into slurry.
(d) Running cost of pipelines is minimal.
(e) There are no transshipment losses or delays.

Networks of pipelines: There are three networks of pipeline transportation as given below:
(a) From oil fields in upper Assam to Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh)
(b) From Salaya in Gujarat to Jalandhar in Punjab.
(c) Gas pipeline from Hazira in Gujarat to Jagdishpur in Uttar Pradesh via Vijaipur.

Waterways:
- Cheapest means of transport.
- Suitable for carrying heavy and bulky goods.
- Fuel-efficient and eco-friendly.

National Waterways:
- The National Waterway No 1 – On the Ganges River between Allahabad and Haldia
- National Waterway No 2 – On the Brahmaputra river between Sadiya and Dhubri
- National Waterway No 3 – The West coast canal in Kerala.

Sea port along the Western coast:
- Kandla Port: First port developed after independence, Tidal port, handles export and import of the Agricultural and industrial products from Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana
- Mumbai Port: Biggest port, natural port, located in Maharashtra.
- Jawaharlal Nehru Port: To relieve the pressure of Mumbai port, Located in Maharashtra.
- Marmagaon port: Export 50% of India’s Iron ore, located in Goa.
- New Mangalore: Exports Iron Ore, located in Kerala.

Seaports along the Eastern coast:
- Tuticorin: Natural port, handles cargo to Sri Lanka and Maldives, located in Tamilnadu.
- Chennai Port – One of the oldest artificial port, handles large volume of trade and cargo. Located in Tamil Nadu
- Vishakapatnam – Deepest landlocked and well protected port, serves hinterlands of Ganga Brahmaputra basin.
- Paradip: Export iron-ore, located in Orissa
- Kolkata – An inland riverine serves hinterlands of Ganga

10. Why is Air transport considered as the best means of transport in the North Eastern part of India?
Ans. The Air transport is considered as the best means of transport in North Eastern part of the country as:
   a. The region is covered with inaccessible forest and can reach mainly by air transport.
   b. These areas are frequently stuck by floods and then the air transport is mainly used to provide the relief in these regions.
   c. These regions have number of big rivers which are not navigable mainly during rainy seasons and here also air transport proved to be the best.
   d. The international frontiers are easily accessible through air transport.
   e. Due to the dissected terrain in these region it is very difficult to develop the other modes of transport and air transport proved to the best means of transport for these areas.

Q11. Which are the main means of mass communications? Explain the importance of ‘Radio’ and ‘Television’ as an effective means of mass communication in India.
Ans. Radio, television, newspapers, magazines, books and films are the main means of mass communications. The importance of ‘Radio’ and ‘Television’ as an effective means of communication in India is due to the factors as mentioned below:
(i) Radio and television entertainment to the people.  
(ii) These create awareness among people about various national programmes and policies as debates are conducted on television and radio.  
(iii) Programmes are broadcast in different languages for all types of people.  
(iv) Doordarshan, the national television channel of India and one of the largest terrestrial networks in the world, broadcasts various types of programmes from entertainment, educational to sports.

Q12. How tourism as a trade has flourished in India? Explain?

Ans. The Tourism as a trade has flourished in India as mentioned below:
(i) There has been increase of 23.5 percent during the year 2004 as against the year 2003 and contributed Rs. 21,828 crore of foreign exchange.  
(ii) Over 2.6 Million foreign tourists visit India every year.  
(iii) Over 15 million people are directly employed in the tourism industry in the country.  
(iv) It promotes national integration because people from India also go from one place to another place.  
(v) It helps in the development of international understanding. Foreign tourists are attracted by Indian culture and traditions.  
(vi) It supports local handicrafts and cultural pursuits because tourists purchase many products during their visits.  
(vii) Foreign tourist visit India for visiting places of heritage or to have adventures in hilly region or to have business with India.  
(viii) Rajasthan, Goa, Jammu and Kashmir and temple town of south India have attracted many tourists from all over the world.