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Infra projects boost ODC movement



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VINEET AGARWAL

An over dimensional cargo (ODC) is a cargo where the length, breadth, height or weight is more than the standard carrying dimension of the vehicle approved by RTO. The ODC generally consists of machineries, heavy-lifts, boilers,



chemical filters, generators and storage tanks. Internationally, the Persian Gulf, Europe and the Far East are the

major markets for ODC. In India, the ODC market has been witnessing unprecedented growth over the last one decade. This can be attributed to various factors such as the boom in certain industries like telecom, automotive etc., and the major infrastructure development programmes promulgated by the government. The spurt in the business to a major extent is ascribed to major construction activity for NHDP, urban infrastructure projects like metro rail, high-capacity bus systems, large-scale projects in power, oil refinery etc.

- ◆ The ODC market has grown tremendously over the last few years.
- ◆ With increasing infrastructure and construction projects, the scope of business in this segment is continuously growing.
- ◆ Maximum ODC movement is from Mumbai Port, JNPT, Mundra Port and Kandla Port from Gujarat side, Paradip Port, Visakhapatnam Port and the movement of transformers mainly from Mumbai, Patna, Chennai and Hyderabad.

Requirements for movement of ODC: The transportation for this

type of cargo cannot be undertaken on standard rates and varies from product to product. Moreover, various adjustments have to be made to the vehicle for adapting it to carry that particular load. Route surveys are also conducted to assess the probable barriers and difficulties that may arise and how to resolve them.

Impediments to the growth of sector: Unavailability of modern vehicles to carry ODC; and inability and inadequacy of roads to withstand load for ODC movement.

TCI is one of the oldest players operating in the ODC segment. TCI provides dedicated vehicles and equipment for this kind of cargo. For transportation of ODC, trailers are used. At present, ODC segment contributes 5 per cent to the overall revenue of TCI. Looking at the growth and potential of the business, the company has now started a separate division for this business.

Target Corporation awards Damco

Damco has bagged the Vice President's Award 2008 from retail giant Target Corporation, USA. Each year Target evaluates its overseas 3PL consolidators, ocean carriers, and domestic service providers. The award is presented to the partner company that has made a great contribution to Target's business. Damco/Maersk Logistics has been previously named Consolidator of the Year from 2000-2004, Partnership of the Year in 2005, and Outstanding Partner in 2007. Damco is the new, combined brand of the A.P. Moller-Maersk Group's logistics activities, currently known as Maersk Logistics and Damco. ✖

The current state of road infrastructure needs to be improved to sustain the growth in this sector. Though most of the movement is done via National highways, the condition of some state highways such as Madhya Pradesh is inadequate. This slows down the

movement. Also, while over dimensional cargo moves through national highways, hoardings create obstruction for the movement of the trucks every 5 km and delays to reach at destination and in turn projects get delayed and cost too which needs

to have at-least 25' height and other one is RTO with various rules and regulations. Another issue plaguing the sector are the numerous check posts / tolling points which causes delays. Even in today's date we are normally facing the problems with the electric wires, Railway Fatak and bridges, which are very old.

(The writer is Executive Director, TCI) ✖