

Recognition of the Logistics Industry Is an Urgent Need

Team
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Industry

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Considering today's scenario, where supply chain and logistics industry is facing some major stumble blocks, with a view to ensuring smooth operation and steady growth of it, I wish the following changes to be implemented with immediate effect:

- Industry status and an integrated policy for the logistics sector.
- Expedite the development of the rail-freight corridor to give a much needed fillip to the rail freight sector. There must be time-scheduled freight trains on all major routes.
- A centralized toll mechanism to ensure uniformity in the toll charges paid by truck drivers at various check points.
- Warehousing should be treated at par with infrastructure projects, and should enjoy similar benefits. There is need for long-term investment commitments from public and private players alike for developing warehousing facilities. It would also involve land reforms, which will help in setting apart lands for logistics facilities.
- Documentation has to be computerized and minimized so that less number of forms are needed to be filled at checkpoints or offices. It will also do away with agents and unauthorized payments being made to them.
- Government should invest in extending the highway network and upgrading and widening the existing ones, especially in the high traffic density sectors.
- Highways should be access-controlled with proper barriers and crossings for uninterrupted and faster traffic flow.
- A system similar to TIR Carnet system used in European Union that requires no checking of consignments, sealed at the origin, at interstate check-posts may be adopted to facilitate smooth flow of high-value, perishable and time-sensitive items.