

Set up separate regulatory authority for logistics sector

The logistics sector has developed into a major service sector as all major businesses, including the automobile, FMCG, pharmaceutical sectors increasingly become dependent upon it. A separate regulatory authority must be set up for the logistics sector on the lines of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority or the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India as it would help coordinate between the various ministries for an integrated policy.

Toll policy: Multiple toll points on highways reduce efficiency and adversely affect the turnaround time of trucks. Moreover, the lack of uniformity in toll charges owing to different stretches on BOT basis creates irregularities in the cost structure. A centralised toll mechanism is needed to ensure uniformity in the

toll charges paid by trucker drivers at various check points. This would lead to reduction in stoppage time and create greater efficiency.



Cold chain service: There is a need to bring in uniformity in the sales tax structure on processed foods. There is also the need to bring down the high import duty on cold chain equipment. The Government should reduce sales tax and excise on processed value-added foods, remove Octroi, entry tax etc.

Industry should be given exemption/subsidies to encourage investment in cold chain infrastructure. Since time-definite delivery is critical, inter-State check-posts should have a clearance passage for refrigerated transportation.

D. P. Agarwal, Vice-Chairman & MD, Transport Corporation of India