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Meaning & Introduction:

Mobility or Transport is a means of carrying goods and people from one place to another. Transport refers to the activity that facilitates physical movement of goods as well as Individuals from location to another.

Mobility or Transport plays an important role in today's modern world. It helps in removing the distance barrier. An efficient transport system is essential for sustainable economic development of the country and plays a significant role in promoting national and global integration.

An efficient transport helps in increasing productivity and enhances competitiveness of the economy. Efficient transport is indispensable to the economic development of nation.

There are various modes of transport that include road transport, rail transport, water transport, and air transport.

Significance of transport:

Transport plays a significant role in the overall economic development. Transportation results into growth of infrastructure, industrialization and massive production.

Advancement in the transport sector has resulted into comfort and convenience. Well-functioning transportation systems form the basis for economic prosperity and social well being of societies

1. Industrial growth:

Transportation and the Industrial development are interrelated. Without improved modes of transportation it would have been harder for the industrial producers to produce and then sell their goods to the wider markets.

Transportation facilitates movement of raw material and other requirement from the place of supply to the place of production. Efficient transport is indispensable to the economic development of the nation.

2. Creates employment:

Transport also contributes to economic development through job creation. It creates both direct and indirect employment opportunities. In India, a sizeable portion of the country's working population is directly or indirectly employed in the transport sector. It also facilitates movement of labors and thereby encourages employment resulting into industrial development and thereby economic development.

3. Creates place utility:

Transportation enables movement of commodities from the producer to the final consumer whenever and wherever they are demanded. It creates place utility. Transportation plays an essential role in the agricultural sector.

Agricultural requirements are made available to the farmer at a short span of time. It is an integral part t of commerce. It gives place and time utility to goods by removing them from the place of production to the places where they are to be consumed.

4. Bring countries closer:

No country in the world is self-sufficient. They have to depend on one another to fulfil their requirements. Transportation has brought the countries closer. It not only caters to the need of mobility but also provides comfort and convenience. Travelling is a part of our daily lives. People travel for business purpose, education purpose I and vacation purpose etc. The transport system is doing a great job by easing the pain of covering vast distance of land thereby bringing the countries closer.

5. Serve several purposes:

Transportation provides access to natural resources and promotes trade, allowing a nation to accumulate wealth and power. Transportation also allows the movement of soldiers, equipment, and supplies during war.

Hence transportation is vital to a nation's economy as it serve several purposes. It includes the manufacture and distribution of vehicles, the production and distribution of fuel, and the provision of transportation services.

6. Stability in prices:

Goods can be transported to places where there is scarcity and the prices are high from places where there is surplus and the prices are low. Such transfer of goods from the place of surplus to the place of scarcity enables to stabilise the prices of the commodity. Thus stability of prices restricts the local producers to charge prices at their own will. This discourages monopoly and encourages competition.

7. Specialization and division of labour:

Transport increases the mobility of labour and capital, widens the market that leads to specialization and division of labour, which helps in stabilizing prices. Specialization provides employment to a very large number of persons.

It is only due to transport that modern industrial system and large-scale industries are in a position to develop. Without efficient transport it would not have been possible to procure raw material, gather large number of workers and distribute the finished goods.

8. Use of Economic resources:

Transportation enables society to enjoy advantages of specializations of resources, and the benefits of labour by making it possible for products to be brought great distance, thus avoiding the necessity for local production for all conceivable commodities of need. Each economic region can thus concentrate upon the goods and services for which it is best adapted either through natural resources endowment or through historical development. It, thus, leads to a better economic use of available resources.

9. Standard of living:

Transportation raises the standard of living, making possible improved housing, clothing, food and recreation.

Industrial Revolution

Industrial Revolution, in modern history, the process of change from an agrarian and handicraft economy to one dominated by industry and machine manufacturing. This process began in Britain in the 18th century and from there spread to other parts of the world. Although used earlier by French writers, the term *Industrial Revolution* was first popularized by the English economic historian Arnold Toynbee (1852–83) to describe Britain's economic development from 1760 to 1840. Since Toynbee's time the term has been more broadly applied.

- The main features involved in the Industrial Revolution were technological, socioeconomic, and cultural. The technological changes included the following:
- (1) the use of new basic materials, chiefly iron and steel,
- (2) the use of new energy sources, including both fuels and motive power, such as <u>coal</u>, the steam engine, electricity, petroleum, and the internal-combustion engine,
- (3) the <u>invention</u> of new machines, such as the spinning jenny and the power <u>loom</u> that permitted increased production with a smaller expenditure of human energy,
- (4) a new organization of work known as the factory system, which entailed increased division of labour and specialization of function,
- (5) important developments in transportation and communication, including the steam locomotive, steamship, automobile, airplane, telegraph, and radio, and
- (6) the increasing application of science to industry. These technological changes made possible a tremendously increased use of natural resources and the mass production of manufactured goods.

Mobility in India

- •Up to the middle of the 19th century, the means of transport in India were backward. They were confined to bullock-cart, camel, and packhorse.
- •The British rulers soon realized that a cheap and easy system of transport was a necessity if British manufactures were to flow into India on a large scale and her raw materials secured for British industries.
- •The British rulers introduced steamships on the rivers and set about improving the roads.
- •Work on the Grand Trunk Road from Calcutta to Delhi began in 1839 and completed in the 1850's. Efforts were also made to link by road the major cities, ports, and markets of the country.

Development of Railway

- •The first railway engine designed by **George Stephenson** was put on the rail in England in 1814. Railways developed rapidly during the 1830s and 1840s.
- •The earliest suggestion to build a railway in India was made in Madras in 1831. But the wagons of this railway were to be drawn by horses.
- •Construction of steam-driven railways in India was first proposed in 1834 in England. It was given strong political support by England's railway promoters, financiers, and mercantile houses trading with India, and textile manufacturers.
- •It was decided that the Indian railways were to be constructed and operated by private companies who were guaranteed a minimum of five per cent return on their capital by the Government of India.
- •The first railway line running from **Bombay to Thane** was opened to traffic in **1853**.

