



All India Road Transport Workers' Federation

P. Ramamurthy Bhawan, Plot No 20, M.B. Road, Pushp Vihar Sector 6, Family Court Lane, Saket,
New Delhi - 110017, Office: 011-29561432, Mail - airtwf.delhi@gmail.com

General Secretary : K.K.Divakaran

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Gross ignorance of Road Transport sector in Budget Speech is dangerous

The Honorable Finance Minister in her Budget speech in the Parliament on 01-02-2022 has not even mentioned about the serious crisis faced by the Road Transport sector both passenger and goods transport in the country. All India Road Transport Workers' Federation strongly condemn the attitude of the Government. It demands the Government to look in to the situation and act accordingly to protect the vital sector of the economy. It appeals to all the Parliament members to raise the issue in the discussion on the Budget proposals.

Transport is the life line of the economy of any nation in the world. In India this sector is in crisis even before Covid pandemic. The pandemic has further accelerated the crisis. The major reasons are 1) abnormal increase of Excise duty and the up-word revision by the oil companies, 2) Unilateral and unrealistic enhancement of insurance premium by IRDA every year 3) ever increasing Toll Plazas and Toll charges. Unless these issues are addressed, the industry cannot survive. Ironically the finance minister did not touch these issues.

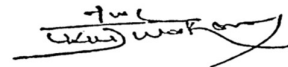
Further, more than 90% of the Road Transport workers are from the unorganized sector. Their condition highly deplorable. They are not covered under any labour laws. No welfare measures. No employment guarantee. No social security. The recommendations of the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute are unheard. The finance minister in her budget speech did not touch this issue.

The proposal in para no.19 of the Budget speech to create a new platform for data exchange unified logistic interface to improve the international competitiveness may pose threat to transport sector. The details/blue print is yet to come.

In para no.25, she talked about Metro Rail and other projects. In para no. 72 promotional use of public transport is mentioned. But no where mentioned about the serious financial crunch faced by the state owned RTCs (STUs) and the support of the Government.

Almost doubling the allocation for National Highways in the Budget proposal neither save the Road Transport sector or the country and the people at large.

AIRTWF once again urge the Central Government to address the problems of the Road Transport sector and to enact social security act for the unorganized transport workers.



(K.K.DIVAKARAN)
General Secretary