

Technical body formed to determine weight-carrying capacity of heavy vehicles

KARACHI: The government has constituted a committee to predetermine industrial goods' weight capacity that heavy vehicles could carry out during transportation, a senior official said on Thursday.

Shoaib Ahmed Siddiqui, secretary of communications said the government would ask the technical committee to expedite the process of finalising the weight limits for heavy vehicles in coordination with all the stakeholders.

"The government is keen to ensure ease of doing business in consultation with all stakeholders," Siddiqui said, addressing a meeting during his visit to the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI).

Federal secretary said the committee would finalise weight limits in consultation with all stakeholders, including representatives from KCCI and Goods Transports Association.

Siddiqui said all the stakeholders will have to make efforts with open minds to resolve issues being faced by the business community that complained against impractical weight limits set by the government and which they said is against the government's policy pertaining to ease of doing business.

"The present government and the minister for communications have been pursuing a very strong policy to promote and support the economy, trade, businesses and connectivity, which is the only way to ensure socioeconomic development," he said. The ministry of communications has constantly been holding meetings with transporters from all over the country and accordingly taking remedial steps to create enabling environment.

"It is my utmost desire that the transport sector, which is the backbone of country's economy, progresses well as I firmly believe that road development is the mother of all developments," he added. "If our road infrastructure is improved and made safe and secure, it would result in improving the economy and also all types of businesses. A maintenance campaign has also been launched across Pakistan to improve all the motorways."

Siddiqui said the government has finalised a plan for expansion of Northern Bypass and an advertisement to seek bids has already been floated by the National Highways Authority. The consultancy work will be awarded soon to double track the Northern Bypass in order to make the north-bound traffic movement safe and secure on this particular highway.

"We are coming up with a strategy on how to deal with long queues at the entry points of Lyari Expressway."

KCCI President Junaid Esmail Makda expressed concerns over issuance of a notice in which impractical weight limits have been defined for heavy vehicles.

Makda urged the communications secretary to come up with a reasonable solution in consultation with the KCCI and all other stakeholders.

Jawed Bilwani, former senior vice president of KCCI said issues being faced by transporters can easily be resolved within minutes. “The communication ministry will have to resolve all these issues on priority basis.”

Bilwani said no heavy vehicle is allowed to move in any part of the city, including ports and industrial units, from 6:00AM to 11:00PM which happens nowhere around the world as motorways and highways are constructed within the city limits to facilitate the exports. “How could we improve our exports when our export consignments cannot move round the clock?”

Bilwani asked the government to introduce e-ticketing facility as long queues of up to more than a kilometer are usually observed every day during rush hours, creating a lot of problems for commuters.

Our Correspondent