

DEVELOPMENT OF ROADWAYS IN TAMIL NADU AFTER INDEPENDENCE

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ABSTRACT

According to John F.Kennedy, "It is not wealth that builds our roads, but roads that build our wealth". This statement emphasizes the importance of roads to a country. Roads form the lifeblood of a nation linking the four corners of the country with industrial towns, market centers, ports and habitations. A good network of roads can transform a country from a developing to a developed nation status. Thus Five Year Plans play a vital role in the improvement of roadways of Tamil Nadu. The 1st and 2nd Plan was executed to achieve the target of Nagpur Plan. The 3rd and 4th Plan specially emphasized the development of rural roads. Besides pressing the needs for rural roads, 5th and 6th Plan provided importance to the surface of roads. Not much improvement was seen in the 7th and 8th Plan with regards to roads. Modernity was seen in the 9th Plan as fly-overs and bye pass roads were constructed during this period. Though financed by the Central Government, Pamban Road Bridge is the milestone in the history of Highways Department of the State. Thus the roads of Tamil Nadu are in growing trend after independence till millennium. But now the roads are in poor condition due to the implementation of Underground Sewerage System in most of the districts of the State. It is hoped that the roads will be renewed in near future.

KEY WORDS: National Highways (NH), State Highways (SH), Major District Roads (MDR), Other District Roads (ODR) and Village Roads (VR) ,Bombay Plan and Five Year Plans.

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