



Road Contractors No Longer Required to Develop Wayside Amenities

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In a significant policy shift, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has relieved road contractors from the responsibility of developing wayside amenities. This change aims to expedite highway projects and improve their quality by allowing contractors to focus solely on road construction. Previously, contractors were required to build amenities such as rest areas, fuel stations, and food courts along highways, which often led to delays and complications in project execution.

The ministry plans to invite separate bids for the development of these amenities, allowing specialised companies to handle their construction and maintenance. This move is expected to enhance the quality and consistency of facilities provided along highways. The policy adjustment aligns with global practices, where dedicated firms manage wayside amenities, ensuring a higher standard of service for travellers.

The decision follows feedback from various stakeholders, including contractors and industry experts, who highlighted the challenges and inefficiencies associated with the previous approach. By segregating the responsibilities, the government aims to streamline the highway development process and foster a more efficient infrastructure development model.

Additionally, the ministry is exploring public-private partnership models to attract investment in wayside amenities. This strategy is anticipated to provide better amenities for commuters while reducing the financial burden on the government. The policy shift is part of a broader effort to modernise India's transportation infrastructure, improve road safety, and enhance the overall travel experience on national highways.