TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is the movement of people and goods from one place to another either by land, water, or air. It involves the use of body parts or certain machines to help the movement.

Types of Transportation

The types of transport are grouped into three main classes. These are: land transport, water transport and air transport.

Land Transport: Land transport is the movement of people and goods from one place to another on land. Land transport is further sub-divided into two. These are *road transport* and *rail transport*. Road transport involves the use of motor cars, buses, motorcycles, lorries, and trucks to move people and goods from one place to another on road. Rail transport involves trains carrying passengers and loads from one place to another running on two metal rails.

Water Transport: Water transport involves the use of canoes, boats, ships, and other vessels to move people and goods from one place to another over water bodies. Water transport is also sub-divided into *inland* and *ocean navigation*. While inland navigation involves transporting over rivers, lakes, lagoons, etc.; ocean navigation involves the transporting over oceans and seas. In inland navigation, smaller vessels like boats and canoes are used but in ocean navigation, larger

vessels like ships, oil tankers, and ocean vessels like ships, oil tankers, and ocean vessels are used.

Air Transport: Air transport involves the use of helicopters, jets, aeroplanes and rockets to move people and light goods from one place to another by air. It is the fastest and most expensive means of transportation. Air transport could be *chartered flight* or *regular flight*. Chartered flight involves the hiring of aircraft for specific purposes and is usually operated by companies while regular flight involves the flight through regular routes and on fixed schedules. Regular flights can operate in two major ways: locally and internationally.

Roles of Transportation in Economic Development

1. **Movement of People:** Transportation ensures the movement of people (passengers) from one part of a country to another either for work or for other purposes.
2. **Movement of Goods:** Transportation ensures the movement of goods from one place to another.
3. **National and International Trade:** Transportation enhances trade between two countries and also between different regions in a country.
4. **Opening up new lands and areas:** Through various means of transportation, new areas are opened and even some

inaccessible places are brought to limelight for proper recognition and development.

5. **National Integration:** Through different means of transportation, different regions in a country are brought in constant touch with one another. This enhances national integration and interaction between different people in a country.
6. **Diffusion of Ideas and Technology:** Through transportation, new ideas and technology are transferred from one country to another.
7. **Development of Tourism:** People from different parts of the world visit tourist centres through different means of transportation.
8. **Employment:** All means of transportation employ lots of people, thereby, enabling them to earn a living.
9. **Generation of Revenue:** All means of transportation obtain license from government and pay taxes which enable a country to get revenue.
10. **Linkages between areas of production with areas of consumption:** Through transportation, the area of production is easily linked with areas where the goods are consumed.