

11. Transport and Communication

Road Transport

- 11.1 Out of the tenth five-year plan target to connect 70 districts with the road network by the end of the plan period, up to now the road connectivity has reached 63 district headquarters. Out of the target to connect 7 district headquarters by road during FY 2006/07, only 2 (Jumla and Kalikot) district headquarters are connected by road up to now and it is likely that 2 more district headquarters (Bajhang and Jajarkot) will be connected by road by the end of this FY. Total road length at the end of FY 2005/06 stood at 17,433 Km, of which blacktopped road was 5,048 Km, graveled 4,727 Km and fair-weather road was 7,658 Km. In the first eight months of FY 2006/07, 174 Km of road was upgraded to black top level, 11 Km of road has been upgraded to gravel level and 165 Km of road has been newly constructed, resulting in 17,609 Km of total road strength.

Table 11 (a) : Road Network in Nepal

(In km)

S.N.	Types	FY			
		2005/06	2006/07*	Total by mid-march 2007**	
				Total	Share/percent
1.	Black Topped	5,048	174	5,222	29.7
2.	Graveled	4,727	11	4,738	26.9
3.	Fair-Weather	7,658	165	7,649	43.4
Total		17,433	350	17609	100

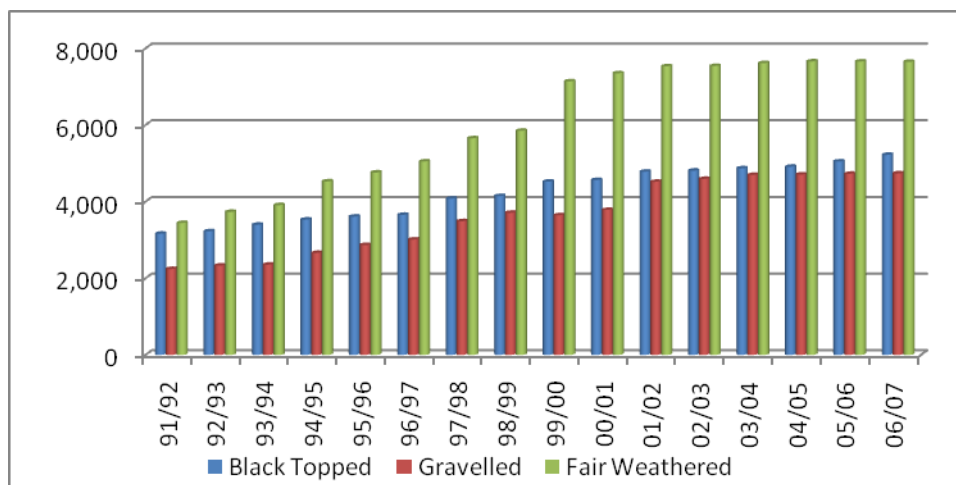
* First eight Months

** FY Total by mid-march 2007

Note: Only the Roads Constructed by Department of Roads are Included

Source: Department of Roads, Kathmandu

Chart 11(a) : Expansion of Road



Transport Vehicles

- 11.2 The number of vehicles, registered between FY 1990/91 and FY 2005/06, totaled 528 thousand 570. During the first eight months of FY 2006/07, 58,487 more vehicles were registered, thus making the total number of vehicles up to that period 587 thousand 57, with an increase of 11 percent. With this, in the end of mid-March 2006, it is estimated that motor vehicle per Km ratio has reached 29. This ratio was 27 in the last fiscal year.

Table 11(b) : Number of Vehicles

Types	FY			
	1990/91 – 2005/06	2006/07*	Total**	Total Increase Percent (first eight months)
Bus	14858	982	15851	6.60
Minibus	4919	477	5396	9.69
Car/Jeep Van	83369	3015	86384	3.61
Tractor	33865	1558	35423	4.60
Motorcycle	347452	48704	390156	14.01
Tempo	7323	5	7328	0.06
Micro	1766	111	1877	6.00
Truck/Taker/ /Dozer/Crain/Tipper /Dumper	29922	1730	31652	5.00
Pick-up	1095	390	1485	35.00
Others	4000	1515	5515	37.00
Total	528570	58487	587057	

* Added by mid- March, 2007

** Total since 1990/91 - mid March 2007

Source: Department of Transport Management, Kathmandu

Other Transport

- 11.3 Trolley buses and Sajha Yatayat are being operated by Civil Society and Municipalities. Similarly, railway service is also in operation.

Progress on Policy and Institutional Matters

- 11.4 In an effort to expand transportation facility in a planned way and increase the capability of planning road network development, a 20 -year Roads Master Plan and Business Plan are under implementation. Likewise, the earlier ten year Priority Investment Plan is under review to make needful changes. In addition to this Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) has been prepared and accordingly programs will be continued in line with consistent budget and annual programs.
- 11.5 For the development of planned maintenance works of roads, Strengthening of Roads Maintenance Division Program (SMDP), Geo-environment Unit and Bridge Unit have been set up and they are in operation.
- 11.6 With the purpose of effective monitoring and evaluation of the program of maintenance and rehabilitation of roads and bridges in a managed way, the Program Monitoring and Evaluation Unit (PMEU) has been set up and it is in operation.

- 11.7 Dispute Resolution Unit (DRU) established to settle the dispute that might occur with consultants and contractors during the project implementation periods is in operation.
- 11.8 For the quality construction work, Geo-technical Manual, Standard Design Manual for Bridge and specification of construction has been prepared and works are being carried accordingly.
- 11.9 In line with the policy of involving local people directly in the construction of road works to support the poverty alleviation program, construction of roads through Road Building Groups and Community Based Organization is continuing.
- 11.10 The computer net work system has been established and software programs have been developed to receive information from divisions and projects. This will help to strengthen implementation and monitoring system through modernized and improved record management.
- 11.11 With the purpose of involving directly road users in the maintenance of roads, Road Board has been established through which regular maintenance of roads being is carried out by using the toll collected from the road users in order to provide faster, safer and credible service.

Box 11(a): Activities under Transportation Sector

S.N.	Major Accomplished Works	Achievement in the first eight months
1.	Driving Learning Center (in number)	
	Registered	52
	Renewed	42
2.	Transport Service-Registration	
3.	Recommended for route permit	166
4.	Number of Vehicle Registered	54,687
5.	Driving Licence (in number)	
	Number of New Distributed	53,535
	Number of Renewed	40,046
	Number of Carbon Copy/Addition of Group	8,505 / 154
	Nepali conversion/ Zonal basis	960 / 23

Air Service

- 11.12 Considering the difficult geophysical condition of the nation, air transport service is being expanded and strengthened in line with the periodic plans and National Civil Aviation Policy. Nepal Civil Aviation Authority has been implementing different development and reform programs to improve and expand air service within and outside Nepal. Continuous efforts are made by the Authority to make air flights, air communication, air navigation and air transportation services safe, regular, standard and effective. Similarly, The Authority has made a study on the institutional development of the sector. Nepal government has approved the National Civil Aviation Policy, 2063 and it is now in effect.
- 11.13 There are 51 airports in the country, which include one international airport in Kathmandu, 3 regional hub centers (Nepalgunj, Biratnagar and Bhairahawa), 43 other airports and 4 airports under construction (Kalikot, Kamal Bazar, Masinechaur and Khanidanda). Of them, 33 airports are in operation.

- 11.14 In the context of improvement and expansion of Tribhuvan International Airport, review of Airport Development Master Plan, 2015, and preparation of Civil Aviation Sector Development Strategy Plan have been prepared with the assistance of Asian Development Bank. Nepal Civil Aviation Authority is working on the pre-qualification of contractors for the construction of runway; taxi-way overlay work and expansion of stopover facility for international flights. Chain-link fencing and roads construction works around TIA are also continuing.
- 11.15 Under the Social Corporate Responsibility, construction of drinking water facility, roads and sewerage along the vicinity area of TIA in Sinamangal, Gothatar and Pashupati, is under way from the Authority's own financing.
- 11.16 Emphasis has been given to improve and develop facilities for air travellers. In line with this several activities, directed to provide prompt and effective facility to air travelers at the TIA, are being carried out and they include waiting room at the main gate, information on air flights, transit and cloak room, expansion of optical fiber network, health clinic center as well as domestic terminal building improvement. Airport Full Emergency Exercise was carried out for the first time to test the effectiveness of service delivery at the TIA.
- 11.17 Considering the expansion of air service and airlines business continuity has been given for the expansion and upgradation of domestic air field so as to make the service regular, safe and reliable. Contract agreements with the contractors have been signed for the construction of exit taxi way, improvement of tower and construction of cargo building; and tender is called for expansion of waiting room at the Nepalgunj airport. With the completion of expansion of black topped run way at Bharatpur airport to 1200X30 meter by the first trimester of FY 2005/06, aircraft such as Beech craft and SAAB now can operate flights round the year. Construction of 80x 60 meter rigid parking apron at Biratnagar airport has been completed. In the process of developing Gautam Budha Airport as a regional airport, 60 bighas of land was acquired in last fiscal year. In this fiscal year, additional 25 bighas of land will be acquired for further infrastructure development. There are no all-weather-airports in the Far West Development region. In order to maintain regional balance and response to the local people, improvement and expansion of Dhangadhi airport is important to provide round the year service. This program has been taken up with some financial support promised by the local people. Construction of 1200x30 meter run way, 85x 20 meters taxi way and improvement of 90x62 meter apron (black top) has been completed by the first trimester of FY2006/07. Black topping of additional 600 meter runway is in the process; after its completion the total length of runway will reach 1800 m by the end of this fiscal year. At Surkhet airport in the Mid-west development region blacktopping on runway has been completed and the same on parking apron area is being done. At Janakpur airport extension of runway by 300m is at the final stage, completion of this will lead to 1200 m runway.
- 11.18 In course of expansion of air service in the remote areas a number of airfields are under construction. Among main airports in the remote areas under construction are Mugu, Kalikot, Kangel Danda, Kamal Bazar, Tham Khark, Machine Chaur, Dolpa and Mana Maya Rai Khandi airports.
- 11.19 In the context of reconstruction of conflict damaged airports at different places, tender bid is called for the reconstruction of terminal tower at Bajura airport. Similarly, out of the airports damaged at the time of conflict, communication facilities have been set up at Rukum Chaurjhari, Rukum Salle and Lamidanda airports; communication sets at Mahendrenagar airport; installation of PABX System at Dhangadhi, Surkhet, Chandragadhi and Jomsom

airports; refurbishment of Biratnagar airport Tower and relocation of equipment have been completed. At the main domestic airports power supply system has been improved. Similarly, electrification at Surkhet, Dhangadhi, Biratnagar, Pokhara and Gautam Budha airports has been improved.

- 11.20 As per the policy of encouraging private sector airlines for the operation of domestic and international air services, Authority has issued Air Operation Certificate (AOC) to 42 airlines. So far, only 22 such airlines have valid AOC. Out of this, thirteen airlines having AOC are in operation for air service. In spite of having valid AOC, 9 airline companies are not in operation for air service. Necessary steps are being taken to discourage the tendency of holding AOC without operating air services and also not following the rules and regulation on air safety, credibility and regularity. In this manner, AOC of 16 airlines has been canceled and 4 companies' certificate and AOC was made invalid on account of missing the deadline for renewable. Thus, AOC of 20 airline companies have become invalid.
- 11.21 Of the total 22 AOC holder airline companies, 3 airlines are involved in aviation sports one in ultra light power glider and two in paraglide. Thus with the increase in airlines and services, it has helped to avail additional services to the tourist and general people. In addition to this, Aviation Flying Training Operating Institute has started its operation in Bharatpur upon Authority's permission. This will support in the development of aviation industry by producing skilled human resources within the country.
- 11.22 Sixteen international airlines from different countries are operating their flights regularly. In this fiscal, GMG Airlines (Dhaka), Air Arabia (Sarjaha), Korean Airlines (Seoul) and China Southern (Gounzou) have started their flights in Nepal regularly. It has provided additional support to boost tourism in the country.
- 11.23 Nepal has entered into bilateral air service agreements and signed MoU with 35 countries viz., India, Sri Lanka, South Korea, Bhutan, Japan, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Brunei, China, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Macao, Maldives, Hong Kong, Philippines, Egypt, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Qatar, Bahrain, Pakistan, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Israel, Austria, France, Luxembourg, Russia, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, United Kingdom and Croatia. Thus, Nepal is availed with 57,00,656 two way seats in international flights however, only 36% of total two-way seats available are used so far.
- 11.24 In the process of implementing navigation system based on land satellite-GPS, GPS approach/departure procedure has been prepared at 10 airports (Kathmandu, Biratnagar, Nepalgunj, Gautam Budah, Simara, Chandragadhi, Dhangadhi, Surkhet, Janakpur and Bharatpur). Similarly, flight validation at 6 airport viz., Kathmandu, Biratnagar, Chandragadhi, Gautam Budha, Nepalgunj and Dhangadhi airports has been completed. This will minimize the dependency on ground based flight equipment and that will support flight regularity and improve security.
- 11.25 Nepal's aeronautical chart is being converted into digitized system and; database on procedure, route, approach and departure chart is in process of preparation in coordination with the Department of Survey. In the context of improving Nepal's airspace, preparation is going on for the publication of new edition of AIP Nepal, which includes different route and revised working procedures. Nepal Civil Aviation Authority is seeking permission of Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation for setting new route (L626) to New Delhi from Kathmandu via Mahendranagar. Tender call is about to publish for the establishment of RCAG at Nepalgunj airport. The work order has been issued to the consultant for the study of

establishing alternate repeater station on the appropriate hilltop around Kathmandu valley. Tender will be called for the procurement of GPS Receiver (Survey type). The TOR for conducting detail engineering and financial feasibility study has been approved, to implement Instrument Guidance System (IGS) based on ILS at TIA. Likewise, for the establishment of Automatic Dependent Surveillance Broadcast System (ADS-B) at TIA, TOR for hiring international consultant has been approved and necessary further action has already moved on.

- 11.26 In line with the Nepal's policy of promoting air route making maximum use of Nepal's airspace by international flights flying across Trans-Himalayan and east west routes, necessary arrangements are going on. Consultation is in progress with the concerned countries and ICAO for the inclusion of Nepal's airspace along Trans-Himalayan and east west (Kunming-Kathmandu-Delhi) route. Similarly, discussions are being held at different forums with Pakistan for establishing Himalaya-1, (Kolkatta-Nepalgunj-Pakistan) route. An understanding has been reached between Nepal and China for the establishment of Kathmandu-Beijing-Sanghai route.
- 11.27 Necessary pre- preparation works are under way for concluding Letter of Agreement on air route and ATS Coordination Procedure with India, establishment of Instrument Flight Procedures at different airports and revision of air space.
- 11.28 Nepal Civil Aviation Authority has emphasized on the execution of standard norms set by ICAO on the security and safety of air traveler, staff working at the airports, different kinds of physical structure in and around airports, aircraft either on the air or on the ground and visitors at the airport.
- 11.29 Nepal is active in executing the standard norms set by ICAO on air security, resolution of the 33rd general assembly of ICAO and the commitment of ministerial-level meeting of February 2002. Nepal's Aviation Security Audit was completed from 1-9 February 2006 under the Universal Aviation Security Audit of ICAO. A Corrective Action Plan that includes the recommendations of Audit report has been prepared and forwarded to ICAO. A team is formed to implement and monitor the programs included in the Corrective Action Plan. A draft on National Civil Aviation Security Training Program has been prepared and is waiting for final approval.
- 11.30 Preparation work for the draft on the Air Security Regulations under the Civil Aviation Authority Act, 2053, is under way. This draft will replace the Air Security Management Regulation under the Non-Military Civil Aviation Act, 2015. The third revised edition of National Civil Aviation Security Program, which includes recommendations from ICAO on security audit, has been prepared. Similarly, a draft Domestic Airport Emergency Plan is ready. This plan includes all domestic airports.
- 11.31 Because of the difficult geographical feature of Nepal and difficulty to establish communication and air service equipment, there is a challenge to maintain highest level of air security. Nepal has actively participated in worldwide- security inspection program operated by ICAO. Remarkable progress on the implementation of the Auditor's recommendations has been made. Activities such as audit of different airlines, inspection, regulation and monitoring exercise have been given continuity. Extra emphasis has been given to implement the recommendations of Accident Investigation Committee. On the occasion of International Civil Aviation Day, this year, various stakeholders appreciated the slogan "Safety and Security- Always a First and Top Priority". In the context of difficult geographical structure and increasing security threat, Nepal should develop security as a culture and face it as a challenge.

With a view to minimize accidents, different awareness program including a seminar on Controlled Flight into Terrain was organized. Documents of the revised Nepalese Civil Airworthiness, third edition of Flight Operation Requirements and Flying School Requirements Manual are ready for publication.

- 11.32 The total number of aircraft in Nepal is 48 (29 fixed wings, rotor wings (Helicopter) 15 and aviation sports type 4). There are 339 license holder technical manpower in Nepal, comprising of commercial pilot 336 (fixed wing 282 and rotor wing 54), airline transport pilot (ATPL) 251, (fixed wing 17, rotor wing 234) flight engineer 19 (fixed wing 16 and rotor wing 3), ultra-light aircraft license 1, flight operations officers 45, authorization 152 and 339 are aircraft maintenance technician (ATM).
- 11.33 Nepal government has a policy of expanding, developing and strengthening airport rescue and fire fighting services as per the ICAO standard. There are 8 categories of such services available at TIA. Fire vehicles are provided at Pokhara airport, Simara, Gautam Buddha, Biratnagar and Nepalgunj airport enabling to extend 5 categories of services. At the Tribhuvan International Airport, the only nation's international airport needs 9 category of fire fighting services to cater big aircraft of international airlines. However, existing fire-fighting equipment and vehicles are old and their spare parts are not easily available, thus even providing 8 categories of such services has been difficult. With the given financial position of Authority, maintaining category 8 services and to upgrade such services to the category 9 levels seems difficult. In view of this, the Authority has prepared and forwarded to the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, a proposal seeking potential donors' financial support equivalent of US \$ 3.1 million.
- 11.34 In line with the policy of continuing production of skilled manpower on the civil aviation within the country, Civil Aviation Training Academy has conducted several training programs on Radar/Basic/Refresher. VOR/DME, Basic ATS, Pre-Radar Approach control course, Approach Control (Radar), ATS Refresher, AFIS Refresher, AIP Orientation, Ramp Safety, Airport Orientation training and Trainers training. In FY 2006/07, the Academy provided training to 204 participants in different 17 groups. Twenty-three officials participated in seminars/conferences/meetings and 50 participated at training and workshop organized in other countries. Altogether 113 individuals participated at in country- training.
- 11.35 It has been felt to rectify immediately problems identified at ATS communication and flight supporting system and at Radar system. For this, a proposal has been prepared and forwarded to the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation for the Japanese assistance. Similarly, with a view to equip for night landing a proposal for the installation of VOR/DME and airfield lighting system required for night landing facility at Dhangadi and lighting facility at Simara airport has been prepared and forwarded to MoCTCA for seeking assistance from potential donors.

Information and Communication

Postal Services

- 11.36 The oldest means of information and communications and most widely used by populace has net work spread over entire villages of the country. Currently, the postal services network includes general post office, regional post directorates, district post offices, ilaka post offices and additional post offices and their total number is 3,992. Besides delivering letters, parcels, it has continued its traditional jobs like; the publication of postal tickets, Postal Saving Bank and

it has moved towards the maximum utilization of modern information technology by introducing e-post services. Revolving fund, founded to make money order services more effective and efficient has increased to Rs 33.775 million and such service has been extended to India, Jordan, Qatar, Thailand, Hong Kong and United Arab Emirates. Postal Saving Bank, the service available in 177 post offices inside the country has collected a deposit of Rs 500 million out of which Rs 420 million has already been invested. This bank has also recovered the principal amounting to Rs. 220 million. Express Foreign Mail Delivery Services is operating in 38 countries and Domestic Express Mail Delivery Service in 60 locations inside the country. In order to speed up the performance and to simplify the working procedure, Counter Automation has been put into operation in 7 places. Soft wares have been developed and put into practice for effective and efficient management of Post Boxes, Postal Saving Bank, Counter Automation, International Postal Account Settlement and Postal Tickets.

- 11.37 Track and Trace system has been developed and implemented to keep record of mail parcel sent abroad. Post offices located at Dillibazar and Bhotahity have started collecting register documents and parcel to be sent under Foreign Express Post Office which was done only by General Post Office before.
- 11.38 In order to simplify the procedure and to make postal service more efficient, agreements have been entered with private airline companies for domestic services. Postal charges levied for transportation of newspapers registered with post office has been completely waived off from this fiscal year. This measure was taken to exercise the right of people for information. This year, General Post Office has collected Rs2.4 million 14 thousand 3 hundred and 50 as revenue from the applicants for providing form filling services to the applicants for Electronic Diversity Visa forms for the United States of America.

Telecommunication Services

- 11.39 Amendment of Telecommunication Act, through public consultation, to implement Telecommunication Policy, 2003 is almost complete. This policy was aimed at optimum utilization of achievements made in the past and future possibilities and opportunities that could be put into practice through healthy competition for the benefit of Nepalese people. Nepal Telecommunication Authority has, issued so far 165 licenses that include, among other, 2 basic telephone services, 2 cellular mobile license, 33 internet (including email), 111 v-sat service user, 1 video conference service, 3 GMPCS service, 1 rural telecommunication service, 1 local data net work service and 4 limited mobility service. All 6 fax mail service licenses issued before have been cancelled. As of mid March 2007, 2,549 Village Development Committees have access to telephone services.
- 11.40 Telecom companies have distributed a total of 1.7 million 21 thousand 9 hundred and 85 telephone lines till mid March 2007. Out of this figure, 502,615 fixed lines are in full operation. Similarly, 134,117 lines under WLL technology, 40,975 lines under limited mobility, 108,767 lines under post paid mobile have been distributed so far. Similarly, pre-paid mobile phone and GMPCS users have reached 933,052 and 992 respectively. Internet service users have reached 249,385. In order to cater to the need of people living in remote areas, distribution of CDMA technology based telephone and mobile services is going on in full swing.

11.41 STM Telecom Sanchar Pvt. Ltd, a private sector company awarded to provide telephone service to 534 VDCS of Easter Development Region, has so far connected 1,467 lines. This project was financed by the world Bank.

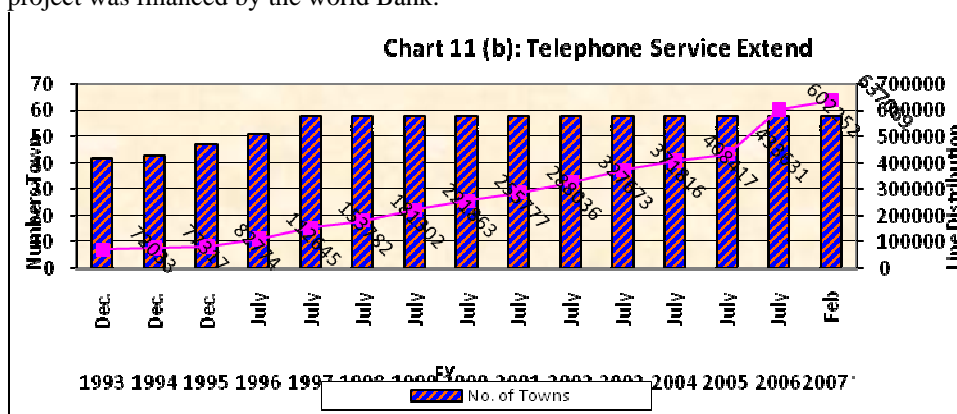


Table 11(C) Telephone Service (Exchange) Expansion

Item	FY			
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07*	2006/07 up to mid march
Grant Total	58	58	58	58
Number of urban area covered				
Telephone line distributed	433631	602252	34817	637069
Population per 000 telephone line **	18.7	18.7	-	27.52

* first eight months, ** on the basis of National population senses 2001

Note: All exchanges are digital automation

Source: Nepal Telecom Company

Box 11(b) : Status of Telephone Distribution

Status as of the end of F Y.2005/06:		Status as of the First of 8 months of F.Y.2006/07	
Total No of telephone lines	1248568	Total No. of telephone lines	232811
a. PSTN telephone lines	602252	a. PSTN telephone lines	34817
b. CDMA telephone lines	23579	b. CDMA telephone lines	87501
c. Post paid mobile lines	103172	c. Post paid mobile lines	5713
d. Pre paid mobiles lines	519565	d. Pre paid mobiles lines	104780

Source: Nepal Telecom Company

Information Dissemination

- 11.42 Department of Information, Press Council, Rastriya Samachar Samitee and Gorakhapatra Corporation, all functioning under Ministry of Information and Communications have been disseminating information through print media. The Gorakhapatra Corporation is on the process of diversification of its regular publications and is preparing to bring out regional editions of the newspaper.
- 11.43 Press Council has been regularly monitoring the code of conduct of journalists for healthy and revered journalism. Classification of newspapers has been completed as targeted. CD-ROM technology is adopted for the long term preservation of newspapers. With a view to develop journalism in suburban areas, continuity is given to provide rebate in interest rate on bank loan borrowed. Such interest rebate was funded by Media Development Fund. Press Council has also been brining out quarterly bulletin and has been providing press clipping services. Similarly, RSS has initiated process to put news on online. Progress is on to store news published since 1961.
- 11.44 To strengthen information dissemination system which is essential to disseminate in an effective, fast and managed way, the information materials have been kept in the web site of the Department. Various government Communiqués and photos of programs attended by VIPs have been stored in a managed way. Apart from this, rehabilitation of Press section and photo section along with training for journalists on journalism, interaction among journalists, and publication of information materials have been successfully executed.
- 11.45 By mid March 2007, the number of news papers registered in various districts of Nepal has reached 4,614, of this total, 340 are daily, 10 half –weekly, 1,661 weekly, 319 fortnightly, 1,397 monthly, 276 bi-monthly, 442 quarterly, 26 four- monthly, 64 half -yearly and 79 yearly.

Table 11(d): Number of Publications by Language

Language	Number
Nepali	3186
English	376
Nepali-English	794
Newari	27
Hindi	14
Maithili	14
Tharu	4
Tamang	1
Bhojpuri	3
Sanskrit	2
Urdu	2
Tibbat	1
Limbu	2
Doteli	1
Others	187
Total	4614

Source: Ministry of Information and Communication.

Television Broadcasting Service

- 11.46 Television service of Nepal Television, as a strong and effective electronic means of communications, is in regular operation in Nepal since 1984. At present, there are altogether 15 television channels in operation out of which 2 are owned by the government and 13 by private sector. Six television channels have been telecasting programs regularly. Government owned Nepal Television, by virtue of its access to satellite has coverage through out the country and in foreign countries as well. Its transmission covers 45 percent of the total area of the country and 65 percent of the total population. As of mid March 2007, 487 licenses were issued for cable television transmission.

Radio Broadcasting Service

- 11.47 Established in 1951, Radio Nepal is country's oldest with country -wide access electronic media. Its services through short wave and medium wave reach every nook and corner of the country. Radio Nepal has established FM relay centers at 4 different places to expand and extend its service. An agreement was signed with the government of Japan for financial assistance to upgrade and modernize its short wave and medium wave transmission and the job is in progress. It has medium wave broadcasting stations in all 5 development regions of the country. These stations, besides airing songs and other programs, broadcast news in Nepali, English, Sanskrit, Hindi, Maithili, Bhojpuri, Tharu, Tamang, Newari, Rai-wantaba, Gurung, Awadhi, Limbu, Magar, Sherpa, Kham Magar, Rana Tharu and Doteli languages. Two hundred and two companies were issued license to broadcast various entertaining and informative programs through the use of F.M.

Printing Service

- 11.48 Following the implementation of National Information Policy in 1992, the concept of security press evolved. In order to develop Department of Printing as an autonomous and business oriented institution competent to deliver quality service, it has been realized to convert it in to security press. In line with this formulation of plan and budget allocation is on the process to transform Department of Printing into Security Press. Printing jobs like citizenship certificate, visa stickers, Nepal Gazette, Foreign Employment Permit Sticker, question papers and certificates for Higher Secondary Education Council and some universities, post cards, annual reports of constitutional bodies and answers copies of S.L.C. etc. are being done by this department as security printing. Department of Printing has collected Rs 5.2 million 78 thousand 78 as revenue for the service provided during the first 8 months of the fiscal year 2006/07.

Motion Pictures

- 11.49 Motion Picture Development Board is active for the coordinated development, expansions and promotion of motion pictures to preserve Nepalese art and culture and to publicize them within and out side the country. Motion Picture Development Board has started its operation in its own office building. Process has been initiated to amend Motion Picture (Production; Exhibition and Distribution) Act, 1969 and Regulations, 2000. Motion picture archive and picture library are in operation and has been initiated to construct film city at Tokha, Kathmandu.

Challenges

- 11.50 Geographical complexity, lack of essential materials for road construction, delay in approval of programs and inability to mobilize sufficient people 's participation are major hurdles in the development of road transport facilities
- 11.51 Difficult geographical terrain, absence of transport infrastructure, lack of resources to invest in information and communications sector and lack of coordination during execution stage are major challenges. Similarly, inability to benefit from diverse means of communications and other means in an integrated and coordinated way and lack of effective means of communications are yet another challenges in the communications sector.
- 11.52 Lack of manpower and lack of improvement in operation efficiency in proportionate to increased work load has led to delay in day to day performance. Lack of reliable and up to date records are responsible for smooth performance. Lack of resources in proportionate to increasing number of conveyances and lack of physical infrastructure are major challenges in transportation sector.
- 11.53 Lack of timely and quality services as aspired by patrons , lack of transparency in decision making, and unable to make decision based on reliable information and records are yet another challenges.
- 11.54 Despite involvement of private sector in communications sector, inability to meet public demand of telephone lines and provide quality service to customers also pose big challenge.
- 11.55 Lack of coordination among utility service providing agencies like Department of Water Supply and Sewerage, Department of Roads , Nepal Telecom limited and Nepal Water Supply Corporation has made difficult to ensure sustainable, credible and economical construction works of road especially in urban areas.
- 11.56 Lack of fund for project, lack of physical infrastructure and manpower for prompt response to public demand, red-tapism in decision making process, lack of coordination among institutions of similar nature, difficulty to acquire forest land for repeater stations and inability on the part of concerned agency to make available V-SAT telephone are noted challenges
- 11.57 As a member country of ICAO, Nepal should strictly adhere to international safety standards. However, lack of adequate number of qualified and experienced staff for regular check up of air-crafts operated by various airlines and for monitoring and surveillance, has seriously posed a big threat to air safety .The situation is further aggravated by brain drain of technical staff. Thus production of skilled technical manpower and their retention is a major challenge.
- 11.58 Because of resource constraint, additional equipment could not be installed in the country's only one international airport to extend its operational time to attract maximum number of international airline. This is also a noted challenge.
- 11.59 There has been a constant rise in demand for new airport from all districts. Since the return on investment of project like construction of airport in rural district is very low and Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN) does not have adequate fund for such projects, grant assistance should be provided by the government. Lack of policy regarding investment , and site selection coupled with lack of policy to acquire land and then transfer ownership to CAAN have posed a serious threat to the development of aviation sector in Nepal.

- 11.60 Flight security at airport requires highly sophisticated gadgets and personnel handling such equipment should be highly skilled . Contrary to this, the security of airport is being looked after by an ordinary task force of Nepal police. Adequate manpower should be trained to ensure security at airport.
- 11.61 The frequency of transfer of security personnel from and to airport is very high . On the one hand security at airport demands highly skilled and experienced personnel, while on the other hand such frequency of transfer has put the security at jeopardy. Despite of repeated decisions of National Civil Aviation Security Committee to form a separate flight security using under Nepal police, it has not been implemented so far. Initiation by higher authority is felt to form such a wing.