

INDIA-U.K. STATEMENT OF COOPERATION ON SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

1. Consultations between India and the U.K. were held in New Delhi on 6 December, 1999 on issues related to the environment within the context of sustainable development with a view to promoting continuing cooperation between the two countries.

2. The two governments acknowledged each other's constructive role in protecting and improving the environment and noted the initiatives taken in the two countries for controlling and preventing pollution. Both sides appreciated each other's national environmental and sustainable development policies and programmes, which contribute to the protection of the global environment.

3. India and the U.K. recognized the need to promote and encourage sustainable transport. In this regard, the two countries noted the following areas of interest: improving fuel efficiency; integrated transport issues; cleaner fuels and environmentally sound practices in related areas. India and the U.K. agreed to work together to address these areas. Projects will be identified for collaboration between institutions.

4. Reducing the environmental impact of vehicles in urban areas is an important area of focus. In this field, the areas identified for further consideration are: (a) transfer of technology, (b) development of air quality strategies and systems for monitoring vehicular pollution, (c) designing an inspection and maintenance system to control vehicular pollution and improve transport safety, (d) exchange of experiences about cleaner fuels and technologies, (e) promoting public transport, (f) awareness-building about sustainable transport issues.

5. Significant improvements in vehicle and fuel technologies are delivering cleaner and more fuel efficient road transport. An effective inspection and maintenance system will help in the maintenance of

emission standards and acts as an incentive for motorists to keep their vehicles properly tuned and maintained. Benefits of such a system include reduced emissions and improved road safety. A sustainable approach to transport will include non-motorized means, e.g., cycling or walking. At the same time, an environmentally clean bus service can contribute significantly to tackling pollution.

6. India and the U.K. will share experiences and information for promoting sustainable and cleaner transport. This will include demonstration projects and exchanges of country delegations in order to promote cooperation between the two countries. Workshops in the U.K. will cover issues relating to the establishment and functioning of air quality systems, monitoring of pollution, information dissemination, and the processes involved in the development and operation of an inspection and maintenance system. Also, of relevance is exchange of experiences in the development and use of alternative fuels. The U.K. experience will be useful, where local authorities and bus companies are working together to promote public transport both through high quality buses and related infrastructure. Country experiences will be shared in traffic planning and management.

7. India and the U.K. will continue to engage in dialogue and cooperation to determine approaches to address the identified areas. The two governments will hold consultations and take note of the progress made on a regular basis.



(T.R. Baalu)

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New Delhi