

Source: The Rising Nepal, 13 June 2021

Tax Exemption In Electric Vehicles, Transport Entrepreneurs Excited

By TRN Online, Kathmandu, June 13: The investors are encouraged with the abolition of excise duty and provision of tax concession on the electric vehicles in the budget of FY 2021/22.

Transport entrepreneurs are optimistic that the provision of grant in addition to exemption of excise duty will result in the increased number of public and private electric vehicles.

Bhesha Bahadur Thap, Chairman of Sundar Yatayat Private Limited, lauded the government move saying the government has provided an ample of facilities for the electric vehicle. He said that they are waiting for its proper implementation.

“There is concession in tax, the price of car may reduce to Rs. 1.8 million that would otherwise cost Rs. 2.6 million, construction of charging stations has been begun, so number of electric vehicles might be increased in the coming years,” Thapa said.

Thapa added that Sundar Yatayat will establish an EV assemble plant in the area of 10 bigha of land in Sainamaina, Rupandehi district. The Sundar Yatayat is preparing to purchase 25 electric public vehicles from China.

Electric buses worth Rs. 250 million had been standstill

The Prime Minister had inaugurated 5 electric buses in 2018. Those buses could not come into operation as they were found below standard compared to the agreement made while procuring them. It was supplied by BYD Cimex with the grant of Asian Development Bank at Rs. 250 million. Although the buses were said to have been imported from China, it was revealed that they were in fact made in India.

Fuel saving and environment friendly

The government policy has been shifting to encourage electric vehicle to save fuel and environment. The government is also planning to purchase electric vehicle. The government is partnering with Sajha Yatayat to supply more electric vehicles.

The government of Bagmati Province, Kathmandu Municipality, Lalitpur Municipality are planning to run electric vehicle.

Chairman Thapa said that electric vehicle is comfortable for passenger, and payment can be made through electronic medium as they are equipped with modern facility.

Source: My Republica, 15 June 2021

Floods and landslides damages 26 hydropower projects, multiple road sections

KATHMANDU, June 17: The floods and landslides triggered by incessant rainfall have caused physical damage of around Rs 3 billion. It is estimated that the under construction 44 MW Super Madi Hydropower Project in Madi of Kaski alone has caused a loss of over Rs 1 billion.

According to the Independent Power Producers' Association (IPPAN), the floods have damaged 16 under construction projects and 10 projects generating electricity. Krishna Prasad Acharya, president of IPPAN, said that more than two dozen hydropower projects were affected till 8 PM on Wednesday.

"Most of the hydropower projects both under construction and completed in the Dordi Corridor, Marsyangdi Corridor and Madi Corridor have been affected by the floods and landslides," he said. "The details of the damage have not been received from all the places yet. There has been a lot of physical damage. There were no immediate reports of injuries or human casualties." Construction materials, equipment, dams, tunnels and other structures of the hydropower projects under construction have been damaged due to the landslide.

The floods and landslides have also damaged roads in various places. More than two dozen roads have been damaged and more than a dozen bridges have collapsed. This has caused disruption in the movement of people as well.

Deputy Director General of the Department of Roads (DoR) Shiva Prasad Nepal said that most of the damage was on Karnali Highway and Siddhartha Highway. “The department was trying to clear blocked roads where possible. So far, we have not been able to collect exact data on which roads were damaged. However, it can be estimated that more billions have been lost.”

According to the Department of Roads, there is still obstruction in 8 road sections till 8 PM on Wednesday. The department has stated that one-way transportation services have come into operation in 11 places and two-way in three places of the blocked highway.

According to the DoR, Sanphebgar-Martadi-Kolti road section, Dumre-Besisahar-Chame road section, Sanphebgar-Haddekhola-Rila road section, Belahiya-Bhairahawa-Butwal-Bartung section, Tansen-Ridi-Korla section, Panchkhal-Melamchi-Timbu road section, Pushpalal (Mid-Hills) Highway, Kathmandu-Dhulikhel-Dolalghat-Khadichaur section have been blocked.

Nepal, who is also the spokesperson of the DoR, said that the careless construction of branch roads connecting to the highways has also caused floods and landslides. "This situation has arisen when dozer drivers build a road without technical study just to connect and access the highway," he said. “Floods and landslides will continue to damage roads until this practice is stopped.”