STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Haryana Mechanical Vehicles (Levy of Tolls) Act, 1996 provides for the Levy and collection of Tolls on Mechanical Vehicles crossing certain Roads which are notified for the purpose.

Since, Haryana has limited resources, and to attract Private Finance for development of Road Network in the State, installation of Tolls is a good solution. It is advantageous for supplementing the funds required for new projects like construction of Expressway, Elevated Highways, Bye – Passes, Bridges etc. The operation of Tolls is carried out through Entrepreneurs after calling competitive bids. The highest bidder is allotted the work for period of 18 months who deposits a fixed amount of installment with the Govt. every month.

The maintenance of toll facilities is prescribed under Section- 7(2) of the Haryana Mechanical Vehicle (Levy of Tolls), Act 1996. The Section- 7(2) is as under:-

"Any person who is authorized to demand, collect and retain tolls under an order made under section 4, shall maintain in good repair and condition and in accordance with sound engineering practices the road, road infrastructure including bridges, tunnels, ferries, approach roads or section of new roads or by-passes, as the case may be, in respect of which the order is made."

The Department is of the view that the existing Section-7(2) marked "A" is a little ambiguous and should be substituted with Modified Version marked "B" so as to make it more meaningful. The proposed Modified Version of Section-7(2) is as under:-

"Any person who is authorized to demand, collect and retain tolls under an order made under section 4, shall cause to maintain the road, road infrastructure including bridges, tunnels, ferries, approach roads or section of new roads or bye- passes, as the case may be, in respect of which the order is made, in good traffic worthy condition."

It would be appropriate to summarize that the proposed Amendment in Section -7 (2) of "Haryana Mechanical Vehicles (Levy of Tolls) Amendment Bill, 2022" intends to create well maintained and better Road Infrastructure for the Toll payers.

Dushyant Chautala Deputy Chief Minister, Haryana

CHANDIGARH: The 12th March, 2022 R.K NANDAL, Secretary.