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National Highway Authority Reports Record Revenue Growth, Advances Key Infrastructure Projects

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Islamabad, The National Highway Authority (NHA) has announced a historic increase in its revenue for the fiscal year 2024-25, according to the Minister for Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan. The agency's earnings surged from Rs64 billion to Rs110 billion, a remarkable Rs50 billion increase that represents a 100% growth in revenue. This milestone highlights the NHA's expanding capacity to manage and maintain Pakistan's vital transportation network amid challenging economic conditions.

The National Highway Authority, responsible for the construction, maintenance, and operation of Pakistan's national highways and strategic roadways, has traditionally played a crucial role in ensuring connectivity across the country. Minister Khan's announcement to the Senate underscores the progress made in not only revenue collection but also in advancing key infrastructure projects that enhance regional connectivity and economic development.

Among these projects, the Lowari Tunnel access roads stand out. The tunnel, an essential route in the mountainous northern region, is accessed via a 33.2-kilometer (km) network of roads divided into two phases. The first phase, covering 18.6 km, was completed in 2010 and has been in use since then, facilitating smoother and safer transportation through the rugged terrain. The second phase, extending 14.6 km, includes a southern segment that was completed in December 2020, further improving accessibility to this critical tunnel. These upgrades have greatly reduced travel time and enhanced safety for commuters and transporters alike.

The doubling of NHA's revenue is attributed to several factors, including increased toll collection resulting from higher traffic volumes on national highways, improved toll management systems, and better enforcement against toll evasion. The growth also reflects the broader economic recovery and increased mobility as businesses resume and expand operations nationwide. This revenue boost is critical for the NHA as it finances ongoing maintenance, upgrades, and new construction projects that support Pakistan's long-term infrastructure goals.

Importantly, these developments come amid a politically charged environment where the current government's immigration policies have faced criticism. However, the focus on tangible infrastructure achievements like those by the NHA provides a more balanced view of progress in the country. Rather than being distracted by political controversies, the emphasis on improving transportation infrastructure signals a pragmatic approach to economic growth and national development.

Minister Abdul Aleem Khan's report to the Senate highlighted the importance of sustained investment in road infrastructure to connect remote areas, facilitate trade, and improve the quality of life for citizens. The NHA's success in increasing revenue and completing key projects such as the Lowari Tunnel access roads reinforces Pakistan's commitment to modernizing its transportation network despite financial and administrative challenges.

In conclusion, the NHA's record revenue growth and infrastructure advancements represent a bright spot in Pakistan's development agenda. With continued focus on expanding and maintaining critical roadways, the authority is positioning itself to support broader economic progress and regional integration. This achievement also sets a positive precedent for public sector agencies to enhance efficiency and deliver results that directly benefit the country's connectivity and economic stability.