

**Brief Resume of**  
**GAJENDRA HALDEA**

Gajendra Haldea graduated in Economics and Law at the University of Rajasthan and joined the Indian Administrative Service in 1973. He later went for a Fellowship at the London School of Economics.

Among a wide array of assignments, he has spent 10 years with the Union Finance Ministry where he was last posted as Joint Secretary (Infrastructure) until November 1998.

The combination of law, economics and finance coupled with his extensive experience in several sectors of the economy have placed him in a unique position for contributing to the evolution of the framework and policies for privatisation of infrastructure services.

His work in the power sector, particularly in the evaluation and approval of Power Purchase Agreements in India is widely recognised. He reviewed and improved upon a number of high-profile private power projects seeking Central Government support. This led to tariff reduction, and also limited the risks to the exchequer, besides establishing norms and principles for private power projects throughout the country.

While serving in the Finance Ministry, he drafted the Foreign Exchange Management Bill that has since been enacted by the Parliament. The new law mandates full convertibility on current account and enables phased transition towards capital account convertibility.

He has presented several reports of far-reaching significance, particularly in the area of privatisation of infrastructure services. He was a member of the national Energy Policy Committee/ Steering Committee on Energy Sector for the Tenth Five Year Plan, the national Working Group on Power for the Tenth Plan and the national Working Group on Roads for the Tenth Plan. He was also member of the Expert Group constituted by Government of India under the chairmanship of Dr. Rakesh Mohan on commercialisation of infrastructure.

He was a member of the Expert Group constituted by Government of India on reform and restructuring of the power sector. The Group was constituted following a resolution of the Chief Ministers' Conference on power reforms, presided by the Prime Minister in March 2001. Dr M. S. Ahluwalia chaired the Expert Group.

While in the Ministry of Finance, he was responsible for infrastructure sectors, exchange control, economic relations with the Americas, Project Monitoring Unit and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) portfolio. He was closely involved in policy formulation and implementation relating to infrastructure sectors. He also made significant improvements to the ADB portfolio in India including a sharp increase in disbursement ratios reaching a record 30 percent plus.

In his different assignments over the years, he has been responsible for dealing with the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and various bilateral developmental agencies such as USAID, CIDA, JICA, etc. and has formulated and negotiated several infrastructure projects with these agencies.

He has served on the Boards of National Thermal Power Corporation, Indian Railways Finance Corporation, Central Bank of India, Bank of India, and Andrew Yule and Company besides being a member of several committees on infrastructure.

He drafted the Electricity Bill, 2001 for the Government of India as a part of the restructuring and modernisation of electricity industry in India. The Bill was evolved in consultation with stakeholders as well as international and national experts, and is widely regarded as a comprehensive and modern legislation. The said draft Bill, as modified by the Power Ministry, was enacted by the Parliament in 2003.

He was chairperson of the Expert Group set up by the Government of Punjab for restructuring and reform of the power sector. He was also Advisor (Power reforms) to the Government, besides being a member of the Punjab Infrastructure Development Board chaired by the Chief Minister of Punjab. He is also the author of the Punjab Electricity Bill that is presently under consideration of the State Legislative Assembly.

He is also Advisor (Power reforms and restructuring) to the Government of Assam which has initiated power reforms with assistance from the Asian Development Bank. He is the author of the Assam Electricity Bill that was passed by the State Legislative Assembly on April 8, 2003 and is awaiting the assent of the President of India.

He is also Advisor (Power reforms) to the Government of Rajasthan. He is the author of the Rajasthan Electricity Bill that is under consideration of the State Government.

He drafted, in 1998, a Model Concession Agreement (MCA) for award of national highway projects on BOT basis. The MCA forms the basis of several BOT projects that have since been awarded by NHAI, including the Jaipur-Kishangarh highway and the Delhi- Gurgaon expressway. Several States have also relied on the MCA.

He advised the Government of Rajasthan on commercialisation of infrastructure services and is also drafting the model framework for privatization of state highways. He also advised the Government of Chhattisgarh on the legal and policy framework for BOT road projects. He was on the board of the Chhattisgarh Infrastructure Development Corporation (CIDC) chaired by the Chief Minister.

He is also the Advisor to Government of Punjab on Public Private Partnerships for State Highway projects. In that capacity, he is responsible for structuring and bidding out 12 BOT road projects in the State.

His book “Indian Highways: A framework for commercialization” was released in October 2000 by Shri Yashwant Sinha, then Finance Minister where Shri Rajnath Singh, then Minister for Surface Transport presided. Rich tributes were paid to the author and his work by Shri Yashwant Sinha, Justice B.N. Kirpal, then Judge of the Supreme Court, Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia, then Member, Planning Commission and some international luminaries. The concession framework contained in this book has formed the basis of several BOT projects in India. An updated version of the MCA drafted by him has since been adopted by the Government for Public Private Partnerships in national highway projects.

He was invited to join the National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi as Chief Advisor and Head of the Centre for Infrastructure and Regulation and took that position in October 2000. Since November 2004, he is also Adviser to the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission with particular responsibilities relating to infrastructure reforms.

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