

2120/03

Government of India
Ministry of Road Transport & Highways

No. RW/NH-34066/7/2003-S&R(B)

Dated : 17.09.2003



Subject: Bridges on National Highways and other Centrally sponsored Schemes.
Provision of various types of utilities services on Bridges and Design of foot-path slab

The guidelines for accommodation of utility services like cables and pipelines for water/gas/ petroleum products on National Highway Bridges have been issued by the Ministry on several occasions and the latest circular on the subject being the one issued vide letter No. RW/NH-34066/2/95-S&R dated 25th Oct. 1999 (Copies enclosed). It is clearly mentioned in these circulars that as far as possible provision of utilities on the main bridge structures should be avoided. Instructions to be followed in case carrying of the utilities on bridges becomes inescapable, have also been issued. These guidelines need to be strictly followed for the following reasons:

- (i) To avoid the possibility of any damage to the bridge and its approaches and
- (ii) To ensure that the location of these utilities on the Structure/substructures does not in any way hinder the inspection, maintenance and repair of the super structure, bearings and the substructure of bridges.

Instances have been reported where cable ducts (continuous G.I.Pipes) have been erected on bridges or along the parapet of the bridges. These continuous pipes are provided without any provision for expansion / contraction and are cause for serious concern. They resist free movement of expansion joints. The structural members of bridges are thereby subjected to stress for which they are not designed. It is also reported that in one of the bridges, inspection could not be carried out by the Mobile Bridge Inspection Unit due to these cable ducts.

All project Chief Engineers and Regional Officers are requested that they may please ensure in consultation with the respective State chief engineers dealing with National Highways that services are not being allowed indiscriminately on the parapet/any part of the bridges. Safety of the bridges has to be kept in view while permitting various services along bridge. Approvals are to be accorded in this regard with the concurrence of this Ministry's Project Chief Engineers only.

Yours faithfully,

(R.S.Ninan)

Chief Engineer (B) S&R

For Director General (Road Development)
& Spl. Secretary

To

1. All the Chief Engineers, MORT&H.
2. All ROs/ELOs.

RO (on tour)
25/9/2003

Exec + (on tour)
30/9/03