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No. NH-11052/5/86-NHIII/DI

*Dated the 1st July, 1987*

To

*The Secretary to the Govt. of All States & U.T.s (By Name)  
Deptt. dealing with National Highways*

Subject: Execution of works on National Highway — Deviation in work

I am directed to say that according to the provisions of National Highway Act, 1956 and rules thereunder, the State Government/Administrator of Union Territories are declared as executing agencies

for carrying out approved works on National Highways. Rule 8(1) of the National Highway Rules 1957 as amended by notification No. SO 496(E), dated 20.8.1986 (published in the Gazette of Indian Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) on 20.8.1986) provides that "The executive agency shall not, without the prior sanction of the appropriate sanctioning authority, deviate from the scope of the specifications and design of the project, failing which the expenditure on the component of the deviated work and the other components of the works affected thereby shall be debited to the executing agency".

2. After due consideration of the matter, it has been decided that the following items would constitute deviation during execution for the operation of Rule 8(1) of the N.H. Rules, 1957.

- (i) Any change/variation in the quantity or specification of an item and/or change in the scope of work from the sanctioned estimate or execution drawing
- (ii) However, to allow for adjustments in the quantities due to minor variations in site conditions, variations upto  $\pm 15\%$  of the sanctioned quantity of individual items would not attract the provisions of Rule 8(1).

3. I am to add that all efforts should be made by the executing agency that prior approval of the Ministry is obtained, wherever any deviation from sanctioned provision is found necessary. Also, detailed working drawings, specially in case of bridge structures, should be got approved before starting the work as such drawings and the dimensions of various components therein would form a base from which deviation, if any, would be measured.

4. It is further added that the above instructions very clearly highlight the importance of detailed survey and investigations leading to the preparation of proper projects, which has been emphasised by this Ministry from time to time. In this connection, a reference is invited to this Ministry's letter No. NHIII/P/2/84, dated the 3rd May, 1984 (copy enclosed for ready reference) and the requirement of proper survey, investigation and preparation of projects is again emphasised.

5. It is requested that these instructions may be brought to the notice of all concerned for due reference and strict compliance.

*Enclosure of Letter No. NH-11052/5/86-NH III/DI/ dated 1.7.1987*

No. NHIII/P/2/84

Dated the 3rd May, 1984

To

The Secretaries of all State Governments  
(Departments dealing with National Highways)

Subject: Survey and Investigations for Road/Bridge Projects

The Government of India appointed a High Powered Committee in February, 1982, to review the functioning of present Agency System pertaining to execution of National Highway works and has recommended the measures for ensuring more efficient functioning of this system. The said recommendations have been accepted by this Ministry and a copy of the same has been forwarded to all Public Works Departments and other concerned agencies for information and necessary action.

2. Inadequate survey and investigation is one of the main reasons identified for cost and time overruns. The Committee's recommendations in this regard are as under :

"The Ministry should define the precise scope of survey and investigations for each road or bridge projects and insist that they are carried out to its satisfaction before it issues the relevant sanction. In case where a State does not have the requisite expertise to carry out such investigations, the Ministry should at its discretion get them carried out through any other suitable Agency".

3.1. For ensuring availability of required data for preparation of the road projects in a precise manner, this Ministry has issued circulars numbers NHI-37(2)/170, dated 2.4.1970, NHIII/Misc/178/73, dated 16.11.1974, NHIII/P/31/77, dated 30.1.77. Besides Indian Roads Congress Special Publication No. -19: 1977-Manual for Survey, Investigation and Preparation of Road Projects, is also available.

3.2. The requirements regarding the basic design data to be collected for a bridge project may be found in Ministry's letter No. PL-2(1)/70, dated 18.1.1971. Besides this, references may also be made to IRC: 5-1970, IRC: 78-1983 and Ministry of Shipping & Transport (Roads Wing) Specifications for Road and Bridge Works.

121.1.10

4. For major projects, separate estimates for survey and investigations can be got sanctioned by the Ministry in respect of the works provided in the plan. Greater emphasis is now placed on the quality of the projects and hence the States should have the requisite infrastructure to carry out the detailed investigations and survey in case of all major projects. This requirement is equally important in respect of the minor works also.

5. It is, therefore, requested that steps to create necessary infrastructure may please be taken in this regard and a list of the major works included in the plans needing advance action may be forwarded for consideration as and when required.

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