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**No.RW/NH-11037/1/86-DO I**

***Dated, the 19th January, 1995***

**To**

The Secretaries, Public Works Departments of State/UTs (dealing with National Highways)

**Subject:** Accommodation of underground utility services like electric cables and pipelines for water/gas petroleum products along and across National Highways

I am directed to refer to this Ministry's letter No. NH-III/P/66/76 dated 19th November, 1976 (refer Vol.I - page 145/3) wherein it was intimated that utility services like electric cables and pipelines for water etc. should normally not be located longitudinally within the National Highway right-of-way. However, exception to this rule may be made where it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the State Chief Engineer that any other utility location would be extremely difficult and unreasonably costly and that the installation within the right-of-way will not adversely affect the design, stability and traffic safety of the highway nor the likely future improvements such as widening of the carriageway, easing of curves, etc. It was also intimated therein that for such cases, the State Chief Engineers may themselves accord permission for the laying of utility services provided that the conditions set out in the Annexure enclosed with the above letter are satisfied, and if it is considered necessary to relax any condition, prior approval of the Ministry should be obtained.

2. In this connection, it may be stated that the above permission was intended to be granted to the Government Departments of public utility services. However, it has been observed that some of the State Govts. have given permission for laying water supply pipelines to the private parties. Such permission to private parties for laying pipelines for water supply along and across the National Highways may result in a number of parallel pipelines coming up on National Highway land, which will hamper future development works of National Highways. The State Chief Engineers are, therefore, requested to be judicious in applying the exceptional situation for granting permission for laying underground utility services like electric cables and pipelines for water etc. particularly to the private parties.

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