

No.RW/NH-11037/1/97-DO I

Dated the 4th February, 1998

To

The Secretaries, PWD of all States/UTs, Chief Engineers (dealing with National Highways and other Centrally Sponsored Schemes), Public Works Department of all States and Union Territories, Director General Border Roads, Director General (Works), Central Public Works Department, Chairman, National Highways Authority of India

Subject: Laying of Fibre Optic Cables in National Highway land by private parties - regarding

Some private companies have recently approached this Ministry for permission for laying of fibre optic cables within National Highway land. As per the present policy of this Ministry, permission for laying of such cables is given only to the Government Departments. However, in view of the involvement of the private sector in the field of telecommunication, this Ministry is now in the process of formulating a policy for permitting the private entrepreneurs to lay fibre optic cables along the edge of National Highway land. Detailed terms and conditions under which such permission can be given as also the charges or amount that entrepreneurs would need to pay to the Government for this permission are being finalised.

2. It is likely that some private companies might approach State PWDs directly for necessary permission. It is, therefore, requested that pending the finalisation of the policy in this regard, no permission for laying of such cables within the National Highway land may be given without the prior approval of this Ministry. This may please be brought to the notice of all concerned officers in your Department for strict compliance.

---