

No. NHIII/P/17/76

Dated the 17th March, 1976

To

All State Governments,  
(Department dealing with roads)

Subject : Opening/foundation-Stone-laying ceremonies in respect of National Highway works and naming of bridges etc. falling thereon

I am directed to say that instructions issued by the Government of India from time to time on the subject of naming of bridges, or holding various ceremonies in respect of National Highways. Such as foundation laying or the opening of major works on National Highways financed by the Centre have been reviewed. As a result thereof, the following consolidated instructions are issued for your general information and guidance.

**I. Naming of bridges on National Highways**

Requests are sometimes received for naming a National Highway or a bridge falling on a National Highway after some political leader or other important person of that area. It is felt by the Govt. of India that it would be desirable *not* to attach personal names to public works as far as possible. However, if it becomes unavoidable, prior permission of this Ministry may please be sought.

**II. Opening/foundation-stone-laying ceremonies**

- (1) As the National Highways vest in the Central Govt. and all expenditure on the construction/improvement/development/maintenance of National Highways is incurred from Central funds, it is highly desirable that all ceremonies in respect of National Highway works are held by the State Govts. only after obtaining formal approval of the Govt. of India. For this purpose necessary proposal is required to be sent to this Ministry along with all the relevant details well in advance so that the suggestions of the Govt. of India, if any can be communicated in good time. In fact, when the **foundation-stone of a National Highway bridge is to be laid** or a road/bridge work is nearing completion, the State Chief Engineer should make a report about it to this Ministry, who will then take a decision about the date of the ceremony as well as the dignitary who would perform it.
- (2) The expenditure on such inaugural ceremonies should not exceed Rs 500/- in all, on each occasion, including expenditure of a contingent nature like printing of invitations, provision of **shamianas**, refreshments, garlands, photographs. Prior sanction of the Govt. of India is necessary for incurring the aforesaid expenditure. Due to the need for exercising economy in expenditure such functions should however, be restricted to only major works of importance and the number of invitees should be kept within reasonable limits.
- (3) Care should be taken to see that due courtesy is extended to the elected representatives of the people such as Members of Parliament, State Legislatures and Presidents of Panchayats and invitation cards, special car park labels and brochures etc. issued in connection with such functions, are supplied to them and suitable seating arrangements made for them.

1-Superseded vide circular dated 20.04.1990

2-Amended vide circular dated 15.01.1985