

No. RW/NH-11043/1/87-DOI

Dated the 20th April, 1990.

To

The Chief Engineers (dealing with National Highways), Public Works Departments of all States and Unions Territories, Director General (Works), CPWD, and Secretary, Border Road Development Board,

Subject: Opening/foundation stone laying ceremonies and naming of bridges etc. in respect of National Highway works.

I am directed to refer to this Ministry's letter Nos. RW/NH-III/P/17/76 dated 17.3.76 and 15.1.85 on the subject of naming of bridges or holding various ceremonies such as foundation stone laying or opening of the major bridges on National Highways. These have been reviewed and it has been decided to issue the following consolidated revised instructions which will take effect from 1.4.90, in supersession of the earlier circulars on the subject.

I. *Naming of bridges on National Highways:*

There has been continuing pressure from various quarters that some stretches of National Highways or bridges thereon may be named after some political leaders or some other important persons of the area. Government of India do not consider it desirable to attach personal names to public works as far as possible. It is, therefore, requested that no stretch of National Highway or a bridge thereon may be named after any political leader or other important person of that area.

II. *Opening/foundation stone laying ceremonies:*

1. As the National Highways vest in the Central Government, all expenditure on construction/development/maintenance of National Highways is incurred by the Central Government. It is, therefore, incumbent on the part of the executing agencies to obtain prior approval on holding foundation stone laying/inauguration ceremonies from the Government of India. For this purpose, necessary proposals are required to be sent for approval of the Ministry along with the relevant details, well in advance so that the suggestions of the Government of India, if any, could be communicated to the State Governments well in time. In fact, when the foundation stone laying ceremony of a National Highway bridge is to be held or a road/bridge work is nearing completion, the State Chief Engineer is required to make a report about it to this Ministry which will take a decision about the day of the ceremony as well as the dignitary who would perform the function. It has, therefore, been decided as under:

- (a) Prior approval of this Ministry be obtained for such functions and copy of the request be invariably endorsed to our R.O./E.L.O.
- (b) The invitation cards be issued in the name of Union Secretary (Surface Transport) or Director General (Road Development) & Addl. Secretary whosoever is attending the function.
- (c) The Invitation cards be issued on behalf of the Ministry of Surface Transport, Government of India, in case the Secretary (Surface Transport) or Director General (Road Development) & Additional Secretary do not attend the function. The format of the invitation cards to be issued on such occasions are enclosed.

2. The expenditure on such a ceremony should be kept at a minimum level and should not exceed Rs. 1250/- in all which includes expenditure of a contingent nature like printing of Invitations, provision of shamianas, refreshments, garlands and photographs etc. It may also be ensured that the expenditure on all such functions in a State may not exceed Rs. 10,000/- per year. In case of important functions which are attended by the President/Vice President/Prime Minister of India, the expenditure ceiling will be decided by the Ministry on case to case basis. In order to exercise economy in expenditure, such functions should, however, be restricted only to important works such as four-laning/expressways, major bridges and bypasses and the number of invitees should be kept within a reasonable limit.

3. Care should be taken to ensure that due courtesy is extended to the elected representatives of the people such as Members of Parliament, Members of State Legislatures and Presidents of Panchayats, and special car parking tables and brochures etc., issued in connection with such functions, are supplied to them and suitable seating arrangements made for them.

4. While seeking the approval of this Ministry to the proposed function, you are also requested to furnish a draft speech to be delivered by the Chief Guest on such occasions. The draft speech should contain all relevant material pertaining to road development in the State.