



**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Road Transport & Highways**

*Indian Academy of Highway Engineers,  
A-5, Sector-62, Noida – 201301.*

**RW/NH-34066/09/2017-S&R(B)**

**Dated: 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2017**

To

1. The Chief Secretaries of all the State Governments/ UTs
2. The Principal Secretaries/ Secretaries of all States/ UTs Public Works Department dealing with National Highways and other centrally sponsored schemes.
3. All Engineers-in-Chief and Chief Engineers of Public Works Department of States/ UTs dealing with National Highways and other centrally sponsored schemes.
4. The Director General (Border Roads), Seema Sadak Bhawan, Ring Road, New Delhi-110 010.
5. The Chairman, National Highways Authority of India, G-5 & 6, Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-110 075.
6. The Managing Director, NHIDCL, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, PTI Building, 4- Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

**Subject: Digging of Ponds/ Nalas/ Water Bodies/ Rivers and utilization of soil thereof for projects of water conservation in the drought-affected areas of the country - reg.**

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India, is implementing the development programmes of National Highway network across the country which, inter alia, involves a considerable amount of earth work. Naturally, there is a on-going need of earth for the embankments of various NH Projects. The contractors/ concessionaires meet this requirement through buying the earth from farmers or procuring the same through mining of minor minerals as per the provisions of the concerned State Government.

2. On the other hand, many parts of the country are facing severe drought conditions and one of the possible long term solutions is water conservation/ re-charging through creation/ revival of water bodies such as water tanks, ponds, check dams and farm-ponds in the rural areas. It has been observed that there is a good scope for synchronising these two activities. It is being considered as to whether the process of procuring large quantities of earth can be harmonised with any ancillary activity for maximising outcomes. Water conservation/ re-charging can thus be very easily synchronised with digging of existing or new water bodies for procuring earth.

3. The matter has been examined in the Ministry and it has been decided to link the requirement of soil for the construction works of National Highways with the digging/desiltation of ponds/construction of check dams and ponds in drought-prone areas as well as in other areas of the country. Following steps may be taken in this behalf:

- (i) The agencies responsible for construction of National Highways (e.g. State PWDs/

*Prigankh*

- NHAI/NHIDCL) should advise their contractors/ construction agencies through their field officers to approach the concerned District Collectors/ Sub-collectors/ Water Conservation Departments to obtain a list of any such villages/ rural areas where desiltation/ revival of existing ponds/ water bodies or digging of areas for creation of new water bodies are required.
- (ii) The concerned District Collectors/ Sub-Collectors/ Water Conservation Departments should not only provide the details of identified sites (where the local administration would like to restore/ dig/ desilt such water bodies) to the contractors/ construction agencies of NHs but also facilitate the requisite coordination/arrangements with the respective Panchayats along with the requisite permissions.
- (iii) Subject to the earth/ silt being found suitable for use in the road embankments, the Construction agencies should excavate the earth as per their project requirements from such identified water bodies/ areas at no cost to the village panchyats/ rural development departments/ water conservation departments and transport the same to their project-sites for use in the embankments. Similarly, the panchayats/ water conservation departments of the states should not charge any amount from the construction agencies for the earth so excavated. The Contractor/ Concessionaire would be responsible to complete the said water conservation works and transporting the earth, soil, murum, stones to his site at his own expense.
- (iv) Such an arrangement/ agreement may provide that the contractor shall use the extracted material of such minor minerals for the proposed highway work only and shall not sell or use such minor materials for any purpose other than the project work. Further, the contractor shall follow all the rules and regulations of the State Government regarding digging and transportation.
- (v) The arrangement as proposed hereinbefore would serve two-fold purpose at least cost to both parties. The gram panchyats/ farmers will gain by having a pond/ water body dug in their land at no cost which will help in restoration of such water bodies while the construction agency (NHAI/ NHIDCL/ Project Zone) would get the material for embankments for its road building and road expansion projects free of cost.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Yours faithfully,



(Amiyanshu)

Assistant Executive Engineer  
For Director General (Road Development) & SS  
Email:amiy24@gmail.com

**Copy to:**

1. Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Water Resources, New Delhi, for his kind information and further necessary instructions in the matter.
2. Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Rural Development, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi for his kind information and further necessary instructions in the matter.
3. All Technical Officers in the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways

4. All ROs and ELOs of the Ministry
5. The Secretary General, Indian Roads Congress
6. The Director, IAHE
7. Technical circular file of S&R (B) Section
8. NIC-for uploading on Ministry's website under "What's new"

**Copy for kind information to:**

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister (RTH&S)
2. PS to Hon'ble MOS (RTH&S)
3. Sr. PPS to Secretary (RT&H)
4. PPS to DG (RD) & SS
5. PPS to SS&FA
6. PS to ADG-I/ ADG-II
7. PS to Coordinator – I/ Coordinator –II/ Coordinator –III
8. PS to JS (T)/ JS (H)/ JS (LA&C)/ JS (EIC)

*Am Janshi*