

IMMEDIATE

No. NH-24035/11/2007-P&M

Dated, the 18th September, 2007

To,

Secretary, PWDs dealing with National Highways in the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Sikkim, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Meghalaya & West Bengal, Engineer-in-Chief/Chief Engineers dealing with roads in the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Sikkim, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Meghalaya & West Bengal.

Subject : Programme for providing Road Connectivity to Border Towns

A task force was set up for preparation of a proposal for comprehensive development of border areas in January, 2006 under the Chairmanship of Shri B.N. Yugandhar, Member (Planning Commission) with Secretaries of different concerned departments of Central Government and representatives of some of the Governments of Border States.

2. The Report of the Task Force, inter-alia, recommended that emphasis should be given to mega physical infrastructures like highways, link roads, railway network and air links as well as power distribution lines for power and connectivity for telecommunication and information technology. The Border Area Development Programme (BADP) recommended by the Task Force also covers the boarder blocks of all the States having international land borders. The programme is envisaged for ensuring balanced development of border areas, development of infrastructure and promotion of a sense of security among the border population. The report also suggested by way of illustration as given below the schemes and projects which can be taken up under BADP. Border Roads and road connectivity have been included in this illustration and relevant paras of this report are reproduced below.

“It is of utmost importance to undertake construction of boarder roads to provide connectivity to town and cities. These border roads could also be described as two lane border highways. The border highways may run parallel to the border but not necessarily along the border. This will provide quick accessibility with the hinterland and help in integration of the border population with the rest of the State.

The villages, block and district headquarters are not directly connected with road in a number of states, particularly in the North Eastern Region. The people have to take circuitous route. Therefore, network of connecting roads and link roads needs to be the first priority. The construction of roads will include construction of bridges over the rivers and rivulets. This road connectivity will do away with the isolation of population within the border areas. This will also provide access to the local administration and provide impetus to local trade.”

3. As a part of this initiative, Government is considering for provision of such two land ‘border highway’ parallel to the Indian border and connecting important border towns. In order to finalize the detailed framework of this proposal, assessment is required to be made regarding techno economic feasibility of construction/improvement of such border highways. At the first instance, the availability of such existing roads which can be converted into such border highways and the requirement of construction of new roads are to be assessed. The information in respect of such existing roads parallel to the international border like category of road, length, width, surface type, condition, programme for development of such roads to two lane SH standards, if any, under any programme, cost of development of such roads to two-lane SH standards, etc. may be submitted. Similarly, the information in respect of missing links, like techno-economic feasibility of construction of missing links, costs of construction to two-lane SH are also required. The existing roads which can be converted into such border highways and proposed new lines are to be plotted in a map of existing road network of the border districts and to be submitted alongwith the above mentioned details.

4. The above mentioned details may be furnished as early as possible and latest by 10.10.2007.