

RW/NH-36094/07/2025-S&R(A&CC) Comp. No. 257562
Government of India
Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
Transport Bhawan, 1, Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110001

Dated 4th September, 2025

CIRCULAR

To,

1. The Chief Secretaries of all State Governments/Union Territories.
2. The Principal Secretaries /Secretaries of all States/UTs Public Works Department dealing with National Highways, other Centrally Sponsored Schemes and State Schemes.
3. The Engineers-in-Chief and Chief Engineers of Public Works Departments of States/UTs dealing with National Highways, other Centrally Sponsored Schemes and State Schemes.
4. Director General (Border Roads), Seema Sadak Bhawan, Ring Road, New Delhi-110 001.
5. All Regional Officers, MoRTH
6. All Project Directors, Project Implementation Units, MoRTH

Subject: Time limit for arbitral award - extension reg.

Sir/Madam,

Section 23 (4) of The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 stipulates that the statement of claim and defense shall be completed within a period of six months from the date the arbitrator(s) received notice in writing of their appointment. Section 29A (1) stipulate that the award shall be made by the arbitral tribunal within a period of twelve months from completion of pleadings under section 23(4). Further, section 29A (3) stipulates that the parties may, by consent, extend the aforementioned period for making award for a further period not exceeding six months.

2. Further, section 29A (4) stipulates that if the award is not made within the period specified in section 29A (1) or the extended period specified under section 29A (3), the mandate of the arbitrator(s) shall terminate unless the Court has, either prior to or after the expiry of the period so specified, extended the period. Provided further that where an application under sub-section (5) is pending, the mandate of the arbitrator shall continue till the disposal of the said application.


3. Delays have been observed in processing of cases of extension of mandate of Arbitration Tribunals and therefore Competent Authority has approved following timelines for processing of such cases:

- 3.1 For seeking extension of time limit under section 29A (3), concerned Regional Officer (RO) shall forward the proposal to the zone in Ministry Headquarters for approval of DG

(RD) & SS, at least one month before completion of period specified under section 29A (1).

- 3.2 If extension of time limit is required under section 29A (4) and such application is required to be filed on behalf of the Authority in the Hon'ble High Court; the proposal for the same alongwith all relevant details, causes and justifications to be submitted to the zone in Ministry's headquarters at least 2 months prior to the completion of period under section 29A (3).
4. This issues with the approval of Competent Authority.

Yours faithfully,



(Kusum Ghangas)

Executive Engineer (Arbitration & Conciliation cell)

For DG (RD) & SS

Copy to:

1. All ADGs/CEs, MoRTH HQ
2. All Technical Officers, MoRTH HQ
3. The Secretary General, Indian Roads Congress
4. The Director, IAHE, Noida, Uttar Pradesh
5. Technical circular file of S&R (P&B) section
6. NIC-for uploading on Ministry's website under "What's New"

Copy also to:

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister (RT&H)
2. PS to Hon'ble MOS (RT&H)
3. PSO to Secretary (RTH)
4. PSO to DG (RD) & SS
5. Sr. PPS to AS&FA/All AS/JS, MoRTH