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D.O. No. NHIII/MISC/120/75

Dated the 20th March, 1976.

To,

All Chief Engineers from DG (RD) by Name

Subject : Need for coordination between the construction of bridges and their approaches for the completion of both the components closely the same time

Your urgent personal attention is invited to this Ministry's earlier letter No. NHI-40 (3)/71 dated 29.1.1971, on the above mentioned subject, a copy of which is enclosed for ready reference again,

attention to paragraphs 1 and 4 thereof being specially invited. A number of instances have come to our notice where the construction of a bridge has been completed but it has not been possible to commission the bridge into service because the approaches thereto have not been completed so far. Such cases invited a lot of criticism from the public. You will appreciate that this is not a happy situation and all out efforts are required to be made to ensure that for the completed bridges, the work of approaches is expedited so as to derive full benefit of the investments already made in the construction of bridges. In fact, this Ministry and its Regional Officers have been drawing attention of the State authorities from time to time towards the need for a coordinated handling of these works. This matter was also brought up for discussion in the Chief Engineers' meeting held in March, 1975, at the meeting of the T.D.C. and its standing committee on Roads held at New Delhi in June, 1975 and recently at the last Chief Engineers' meeting held at Hyderabad on 6th January 1976. I am writing this letter to you in order to emphasise once again the need and urgency of getting the incomplete approaches completed with the utmost expedition.

2. A review of the bridges for which approaches have not been completed/constructed so far was recently undertaken by us in consultation with our Regional Officers in order to analyse the reasons for the delay in the completion/construction of the approaches so as to devise ways and means to remove the bottlenecks if any. The main reasons for non-completion/construction of the approaches brought to our notice relate to problems of land acquisition, non-availability of funds, non-receipt sanction of the estimates, abandonment of work by the contractors, rectification of sub-standard work in bridge/approaches, and lack of co-ordinated efforts. In order to get over these bottlenecks, following suggestions are made for implementation :—

- (i) Land should be acquired expeditiously by resorting to emergency procedure under the Land Acquisition Act, where delay by the normal procedure is anticipated.
- (ii) Funds for the work relating to bridge approaches which have lagged behind should be earmarked on top priority from the allocations made to the State and the approaches completed within the current financial year or latest before the onset of the next monsoons. Funds should be allocated in such a manner so as to ensure a well-coordinated progress of work both on the bridge proper and its approaches.
- (iii) The cases where estimates have not been submitted to this Ministry or where the estimates have not been sanctioned so far for want of further data from the State, should be pursued by you personally and necessary action taken promptly to avoid any further delay. The position in such cases should be reviewed every month.
- (iv) In order to avoid delay in the sanction of estimates for approaches in future, it has been decided that State Governments should henceforth send separate estimates for bridge works and approaches but these should be forwarded to the Ministry simultaneously and under the same covering letter. Any project not complying with this requirement will be returned to the State Government.
- (v) In the quarterly progress report for bridge proper, the progress about the work relating to approaches should also be reported briefly, and vice versa. The proforma for quarterly progress reports are being amplified accordingly to meet with the above requirement and a separate communication will follow in this connection shortly.
- (vi) Where work is undertaken or required to be undertaken for rectification of sub-standard work for the bridge or its approaches, needful should be done immediately so that the investment is brought to fruition at the earliest. A report to this effect should be sent to the Roads Wing after having the requirement covered expeditiously.
- (vii) In cases where the contractors are going slow or have abandoned work, the problem should be sorted out expeditiously and the position reported to this Ministry within a month of the date of issue of this letter.

3. A statement giving particulars of the bridges in the State of — for which approaches have not been completed/constructed so far is enclosed. Any omissions of such cases of approaches not completed, may also be located by you and got added to the list. It is requested that the reasons for the delay in the completion/construction of the approaches may please be analysed and reported to us and action taken immediately in the light of suggestions as in para 2 above. A report about the action taken to remove the various bottlenecks may please be sent to me within a fortnight of the receipt of this letter.

Note Encls. not attached
