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No. NHIV-50 (20)/77

*Dated the 27th Sept. 1977*

To,

The Chief Engineers/Addl. Chief Engineers' of the  
State P.W.Ds and Union Territories  
(dealing with National Highways)

Subject : Fixation of the deck level of High Level bridges and culverts across cross drainage for National Highways

The deck levels of high level bridges and culverts are generally fixed after allowing for the necessary vertical clearances in accordance with the provisions contained in Clause 106 of I.R.C. Bridge Code Section I. This, in some cases, may result in the deck levels as worked out being lower than the finished road formation level of the approaches, arrived at after allowing for the necessary vertical clearance of 1 metre for the subgrade level above the designed H.F.L., in accordance with para 2 of this Ministry's circular letter No. PL-67 (12)/76 dated 10th Sept. 1976.

2. In order to ensure that such abrupt changes in longitudinal profile of the road are avoided, it has now been decided that in all such cases, the bridge or culvert deck levels shall be raised to be in line with the finished adjoining road formation levels, and in no case should the clearance above the affluxed H.F.L. to the top of finished deck level be less than 1.76 metres. This is also subject to the minimum free board requirement above the affluxed HFL to the bottom of deck as specified in Cl. 106 of Section I of IRC Bridge Code being duly satisfied.
3. These instructions shall be kept in view while preparing proposal for new bridges and culverts and wherever possible may be incorporated in all other cases which have yet not been put to tender.
4. These instructions shall, however, not apply to cases where the finished road formation level has been kept higher from other considerations e.g. bridges on valley curves/bridges, over-bridges and under-passes, etc.
5. It is requested that these instructions may be brought to the notice of all officers in your Department dealing with National Highways.