

No. NHIII/P/31/77

Dated the 23rd September, 1985

Subject: Broad Guidelines regarding scrutiny of technical proposals and detailed cost estimates for Road & Bridge works on National Highways and other Centrally Financed Schemes as submitted by the State PWDs in accordance with the modified procedure.

Instructions have already been issued vide this Ministry's letter No. NHIII/P/31/77 dated 14.1.1985 wherein it has been stated that before framing a detailed cost estimate, the State PWD would furnish the technical proposals in respect of highway projects in the first instance to this Ministry. The State PWDs have also been requested to ensure that whenever a technical proposal is submitted to this Ministry, a copy thereof is also supplied to our RO/ELO so as to enable them to convey their views in the matter. All Chief Engineers and Superintending Engineers are requested to keep a close watch to ensure that the above mentioned procedure is followed by the State PWDs and if any slippage is observed, immediate attention of the State PWD be invited so that our RO/ELO gets a copy of technical proposal from the State Chief Engineer.

2. After the technical proposal is received from the State PWD, following procedures shall be adopted for its scrutiny in the Roads Wing.

2.1. All technical proposals received from the State Governments shall be put up to the concerned Superintending Engineer by the Section. The power to issue final approval of all the relevant technical parameters for different types of works will be exercised as under: —

- (a) By the concerned Superintending Engineer for original works costing more than Rs. 10 lakhs and upto Rs. 25 lakhs each;
- (b) By the concerned Chief Engineer for original works costing more than Rs. 25 lakhs and upto Rs. 75 lakhs each; and
- (c) By the ADG (B) or ADG (R) for original works costing more than Rs. 75 lakhs each and upto Rs. 200 lakhs each.

While exercising the above mentioned powers, the Officers shall keep in mind the following: —

- (a) All major realignment cases including major bypasses on National Highways and cases of siting of bridges which involve major realignments necessitating coordination with road alignment and provision of elaborate river training/protection works shall be shown to ADGs.
- (b) All cases involving raising of formation with or without additional waterway/provision of new bridges, on account of floods, should be shown to Chief Engineer.
- (c) Special problems relating to geotechnical investigations, pavement design, design of high embankments etc., shall be shown to Chief Engineer (Roads) who, if considered necessary, shall consult Chief Engineer (Roads) Standards & Research.
- (d) Cases involving design of major junctions shall be shown to Chief Engineer (Traffic & Transportation).

All approvals to the technical proposals shall be issued under the signature of Superintending Engineers on behalf of DG (RD).

2.2. Scrutiny of the proposals should be taken in hand by the concerned Project Zone (after its receipt in the Roads Wing) without waiting for comments of the R.O. who may furnish their suggestions within 30 days of submission of the proposal by the State PWD. If such a scrutiny shows that RO's comments are positively needed on certain specific important issues, a suitable communication should be sent to the RO concerned giving a time limit.

2.3. Ministry's approval or comments if unavoidable must be communicated within two months of the receipt of proposal from the State PWD.

3. When the detailed estimate prepared on the basis of approved parameters is received from the State PWD, for technical approval and sanction, the following procedure shall be adopted for scrutinising the original estimates and processing the same for financial sanction.

3.1. All detailed cost estimates received from the State Government shall be put up to Superintending Engineer by the Section. The Superintending Engineer would scrutinise the detailed cost estimates costing upto Rs. 25 lakhs with the assistance of EE/AEE.

3.2. The detailed cost estimates of above Rs. 25 lakhs shall be marked by the Superintending Engineer to Executive Engineer who after scrutiny will directly put them up to the Chief Engineer. Any query raised by the Internal Finance shall be dealt with by the Chief Engineer in consultation with the Project Officers. After the estimate is approved by the Finance Division, the Chief Engineer will route the file through Superintending Engineer to the lower formation for issue of sanction.

3.3. Other procedures regarding the reference of file dealing with the estimates to the Finance Division shall be the same as hitherto followed. Similarly, there will be no change in the procedure being followed of cases processed for EFC clearance.

4. The above mentioned guidelines shall be followed by the technical officers in the Roads Wing at the Headquarters.