

No.RW/NH-11060/1/98-D-I**Dated, the 5th November, 1998**

To

The Secretaries of all States/Union Territories, Public Works Department (dealing with National Highways); Director General Border Roads; Chairman, National Highways Authority of India; Director General, Central Public Works Department.

Subject : Expeditionary award and completion of National Highway Projects

I am directed to invite your kind attention to the instructions issued vide this Ministry's letter No.RW/NH-11060/87-DO I dated 28th August, 1992 on the subject mentioned above. It has been observed that the aforementioned instructions are not being followed in a number of cases and a large number of works irrespective of their size and cost are continuing to linger for quite some time beyond their reasonably expected date of completion. The State Govts. are also taking unduly long time for award of contracts for NH Projects. This has resulted in overall increase in completion cost of the Projects, which is being viewed very seriously at the highest level.

2. It has also been decided that there is need to further reduce the period of completion of projects in tune with the advancement of technology and international best practices. The existing guidelines have accordingly been reviewed and it has been decided that henceforth completion programme of all sanctions in respect of National Highway works will follow the following time schedule :

(a) Award of contract for work:	
(i) Projects costing less than Rs.100 lakhs	Maximum within six months from the date of sanction
(ii) Projects costing Rs.100 lakhs and more	Maximum one year from the date of sanction.
(b) Completion of work:	
(i) Projects costing less than Rs.100 lakhs	A maximum of two years from the date of award of contract
(ii) Projects costing between Rs.100 lakhs to Rs.10 crores	A maximum of two and half years from the date of award of work
(iii) Projects costing more than Rs. 10 crores	A maximum of 3 years from the date of award of work. Wherever sophisticated construction machineries are likely to be available the period of construction for this category of the project may be further reduced suitably in the sanction letter.

In case it is absolutely necessary for continuing execution of works beyond the above prescribed time schedule, the proposal for extension of time with proper justification shall be forwarded to the Ministry well in advance and not later than one year before the target date of completion for consideration. While forwarding such proposals the State Chief Engineer should invariably furnish reasons for delay and fix responsibility for the same.

3. It is reiterated that sanction of projects which are not awarded will automatically lapse after one year and these works shall be deleted from the list of ongoing/sanctioned schemes by the Monitoring Zone of this Ministry unless specifically agreed to in writing by the Ministry due to any extenuating circumstances. Before submitting another fresh estimate for sanction to the Ministry, the State PWD shall have to fix up the responsibility and action taken against the erring official on account of whom the award of work was delayed and Ministry will sanction the fresh estimate only after satisfying itself about the fixation of responsibility.

4. Henceforth, no work estimate shall be projected to the Ministry for sanction unless land acquisition and pre-construction activities, like, shifting of utilities, resettlement and rehabilitation, if any required, are completed in advance and a certificate to this effect is recorded in the project proposal by an officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer under intimation to all concerned authorities.

5. It has been the practice by some of the State Governments to incur some nominal expenditure on the sanctioned work or booking the cost of construction materials for the work for the sake of enlisting the sanctioned jobs as on-going works. This is being viewed seriously. Henceforth, State Government shall not incur any expenditure whatsoever or book cost of any construction materials before the actual award of work. Further, it has been decided that even if some minor expenditure is incurred prior to award of work and the work is required to be desanctioned for reasons of non award within the stipulated period, such expenditure may be written off to facilitate desanction. The Pay & Accounts Officer is being directed accordingly.

6. The State Governments were requested vide this Ministry's letter No. RW/NH-11028/1/93-DO I dated 1st December, 1993 to intimate the award of contract/commencement of works to the Ministry with a copy to the concerned Regional Officer/Engineer Liaison Officer of this Ministry. However, the information regarding commencement of the works by the State PWD is not forthcoming in several cases. It is once again requested that the State PWD shall intimate the date of commencement of National Highway works to this Ministry, concerned ROs, ELOs and also PAOs for effective monitoring of work.

7. It is requested that the contents of this letter may be brought to the notice of all the officers in the PWD dealing with National Highways for strict compliance.
