

No. NHIII/P/31/77

Dated the 28th Oct. 1977

To,

The Chief Engineers and Addl. Chief Engineers of
State Public Works Departments, and Union
Territories dealing with National Highways.

Subject : Preparation of detailed project estimates for National Highway (Road and Bridge) Works — Avoidance of revision

On examination of the various Revised Estimates, particularly for road works received in this Ministry, it has been observed that the excess cost on account of revision in most of the cases is due to one or more of the following reasons :

- (i) Adoption of tendered rates which are generally higher than the sanctioned rates.
- (ii) Provision of soil used for earthwork in widening or raising having been borrowed from far off areas involving large leads, on the ground that good soil is not available nearby.
- (iii) Change in classification of soils.
- (iv) Provision of more quantity of earthwork on the plea that the sanctioned estimate was not based on correct site data.
- (v) Provision of increased thickness for road crust on the ground that the C.B.R. of sub-grade soil achieved during execution is less than that assumed in the sanctioned estimate.
- (vi) Provision of increased leads for carriage of stone aggregates for pavement due to change in quarry.
- (vii) Provision for raising of the road formation in certain lengths subject to flooding/inundation.
- (viii) Provision of improvement to geometrics not contemplated in the original sanctioned estimate, and
- (ix) Inclusion of construction/reconstruction/widening of weak/narrow culverts.

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2. It has further been observed that excess over the original sanctioned estimates in many cases is more than 100%. While the excess due to adoption of tendered rates is at times unavoidable the excess due to other reasons mentioned above clearly indicated inadequate investigation in the initial stages. This can be avoided only if the original project estimates are prepared after due and proper investigations.
3. Your attention in this connection, is therefore, invited to various circulars issued by this Ministry from time to time and in particular to the ones indicated in below wherein the detailed instruction/guidelines to be kept in view while preparing the project estimates have been furnished. You are requested to see that these guidelines/instructions are strictly adhered to. The copies of these letters, are enclosed for ready reference.
 - (1) NHI-37 (20)/70, dated the 2nd April, 1970.
 - (2) NHIII/P/3/76, dated the 26th July, 1976.
 - (3) NHIII/P/16/75, dated the 2nd August, 1976.
4. As there is an urgent need for proper investigation and data backing for formulating basic project proposals ensuring adequate quality control, you are requested to take immediate necessary action for ensuring such investigations before preparing detailed project estimates in future, since the safety and durability of the entire structure also depend upon such proper investigations.

Note :— Enclosures not attached