## No. PL-30(141)/69

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Dated the 19th July, 1971

All State Governments (Departments dealing with Roads)

Subject : Procedure for sanction to detailed plans and estimates in respect of road/bridge projects forming part of the Central Aid Programme of State Roads of Inter-State or Economic Importance.

I am directed to invite a reference to this Ministry's letter No. PL-10 (167)/70, dated the 22nd January 1971 forwarding a list of road/bridge projects pertaining to your State selected by the Government of India for loan assistance under the Central Aid Programme of State Roads of Inter-State or economic importance in the 4th Five-Year Plan. Consequent upon the change in the pattern of assistance for these projects from grants-in-aid to 100% loan, the Government of India have reviewed the procedure for the scrutiny of detailed plans and estimates in respect of these projects and, as a result, a revised procedure has been evolved for preparation, scrutiny and sanction of detailed plans and estimates for approved projects accepted for loan assistance under the Central Aid Programme referred to above. The scope of the projects to be so sanctioned by the State Governments under delegated powers should be on the basis of details furnished by them to the Government of India for their approval at the time of the initial consideration of the proposals and accepted by this Ministry. In the event of such details not being available at the time of initial approval of individual projects, it will be necessary for the State Governments to furnish the same and obtain prior approval of the Government of India before sanctioning the detailed plans and estimates for projects falling within the delegated powers. Subject to this position, I am to convey that in supersession of all the orders issued from time to time so far on the subject, the following revised procedure may be adopted :

- (a) The State Governments shall themselves be competent to accord sanction to detailed plans and estimates for a road/ bridge project estimated to cost Rs 1 crore or less. In respect of projects so sanctioned, necessary authorisation to Audit for admitting expenditure up to the specified Central loan assistance shall be issued by the Government of India in this Ministry on receipt of a statement indicating that the project has been accepted for financial sanction by the State Finance Department. In the absence of such an authorisation, no expenditure shall be booked by the Accountant General concerned against the approved Central loan assistance;
- (b) Central liability in respect of sanctions to be accorded by the State Governments within the delegated sphere (Rs I crore) would in no case exceed the approved Central loan assistance and excess, if any, over and above the estimated cost indicated by the State Government at the time of the initial approval of the scheme will have to be met by the State Government from their own resources A certificate to this effect would be essential before audit could be authorised to admit expenditure against the approved Central loan assistance;
- (c) In the case of projects costing more than Rs 1 crore, prior technical approval and financial sanction of the Government of India in respect of detailed plans and estimates would be necessary before entering into financial liability on behalf of the Government of India. Necessary detailed plans and estimates for projects falling under this category will, therefore, continue to be submitted to this Ministry for their technical approval and financial sanction as per the current practice.
- (d) For purposes of exercising the increased delegation of powers referred to at (a) above, it would *not* be permissible to subdivide a major project into sub-sections so as to bring them within the purview of delegated powers.
- (e) The broad specifications and standards for individual projects based on the Indian Roads Congress specifications and standards for the appropriate categories of roads (State Highways, Major District Roads, etc.) and bridges, as may be laid down by the Roads Wing, shall be followed by the State Public Works Departments for preparation, sanction and execution of projects irrespective of the fact whether a project is to be sanctioned by the State Government or the Government of India.
- 2. The revised procedure indicated at (a) to (e) will apply to new schemes approved in this Ministry's letter referred to in para (1) above yet to be commenced as well as to works already approved in the past, where necessary.
- 3. The terms and conditions for the loan will be as under :--
  - (i) The loan amounts will be re-payable in a period of 15 years, re-payments being made in 15 equal instalments together with interest on the outstanding balance commencing from the following year. The amounts annually payable (by way of principal and interest) would be recovered in four equal instalments on the 1st of July, October, January and March each year.
  - (ii) The loan will carry interest @ 5% (five per cent) per annum provided that if the principal and/or interest are paid punctually on the due dates, the rate of interest will be reduced to 44% (four and three-quarter per cent) per annum.
  - (iii) The amount of the loan sanctioned would have to be adjusted against the Ways and Means Advances made to the State Government against approved loan schemes of this category as part of the Centrally-Sponsored Plan schemes during the year and the balance, if any, paid in cash to the State Government by the State Accountant General concerned.

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- 4. I am to add that the following progress reports will continue to be submitted to this Ministry by the State Chief Engineer for all projects whether they have been sanctioned by the State Government within the delegated sphere or by the Government of India :
  - (i) Quarterly progress Report in the prescribed form (copy enclosed Annexure I and II); and
  - (ii) Monthly Expenditure Report in the prescribed form Copy enclosed Annexure III).
- 5. I am to request that the revised procedure explained above may kindly be brought to the notice of all concerned and immediate action taken to go ahead with the approved projects on the lines indicated above. A copy of these instructions is also being forwarded to all the State Accountant Generals.
- To West Bengal,
  Bit ar & U.P. only
  I am to add that the revised procedure indicated above will not apply to non-plan loan projects like the Second Hooghly Bridge in Calcutta the Ganga Bridge near Patna Ganga Bridges in U.P. Consequently, the State Government will be competent *inter alia* to sanction detailed plans and estimates for these projects wholly themselves.



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