

No. RW/NH III/P/43/82

Dated the 12th Nov., 1984

To

All State Chief Engineers (dealing with National Highways)

Subject : Need to limit acquisition of land to the minimum possible extent

I am directed to forward herewith a copy of this Ministry's communication No. CDN/CCP-5/84 dated the 19th Oct. 1984 containing the observations of the Prime Minister on the acquisition of land. The land if acquired in excess of requirements, leads to undesirable consequences like uprooting of large number of farmers who are rendered homeless and jobless etc.

2. As already brought out in this Ministry's circular of even number dated 7.8.82 the standards for the width of the land to be acquired for various categories of highways have already been laid down by the Indian Roads Congress and the land to be normally acquired shall be in conformity with these Standards. With a view to conserving useful lands especially in agricultural and urban fringe areas, utmost restraint may be exercised in land acquisition so that only land as is necessary for a highway project is actually acquired. It is also necessary to adopt modern methods to maximise the utilisation of the land available.
3. The contents of this letter may be brought to the notice of all concerned.

No. CDN/CCP-5/84

Dated the 19th October, 1984

The Prime Minister has observed that the Ministries/Departments which are involved in construction activities have been acquiring land far in excess of their requirements. This hold good for project being set up either directly by Ministries or through public sector enterprises.

2. This has several undesirable consequences. It uproots a large number of farmers and often renders them homeless and jobless. Delays in payment of compensation for the land acquired also adds to the difficulties of the persons dispossessed. Valuable agricultural land also may be lost in the process. With the growth in population, it is becoming more and more difficult to find adequate land for housing.
3. It has therefore become necessary to economise on the use of land and adopt modern methods to maximise the utilisation of land available. Prompt payment of compensation of the land acquired must also be ensured. It is requested that these instructions may be followed scrupulously.

To

DG(RD) and all Wing heads.

Copy to :

All Directors and Deputy Secretaries in T.W. and Roads Wing.