

NO. PL-13 (5)/56.

Dated the 17th January, 1957

To All State Governments (Departments Dealing with Roads)

Subject : Improvement and maintenance of existing Inspection Bungalows and rest houses attached to National Highways

I am directed to say that the Government of India have been meeting expenditure on the improvement and maintenance of inspection bungalows or rest houses attached to national highways for which they had accepted liability. The expenditure involved was being met from the funds voted by Parliament for the development and maintenance of National Highways.

2. As the State Government are aware, the National Highways Act, 1956, which was recently enacted by Parliament received the assent of the President on the 11th September, 1956. The Act will be brought into force as early as possible. While it will be permissible for the Government of India to incur expenditure on the development and maintenance of National Highways under the Act, it will not be possible for them to continue to incur expenditure on the improvement or maintenance of existing inspection bungalows or rest houses attached to the National Highways so long as the buildings are the property of the State Government. If, however, the ownership of the buildings could be transferred to the Government of India for National Highway purposes, there would be no objection to expenditure on their improvement and maintenance from National Highway Funds.
3. I am, therefore, to enquire whether the State Government are prepared to transfer to the Government of India free of cost the ownership of the inspection bungalows or rest houses in question in order to enable the Government of India expend monies on the maintenance and up keep of these bungalows or rest houses. If the State Government agree, the Government of India will be glad to receive a list of such inspection bungalows or rest houses attached to National Highways in the State.