

MOST IMMEDIATE

No. RW/NH-35072/1/2005-S&R(R)

Dated, the 20th March, 2006

To

The Secretaries of States/Union Territories, Public Works Departments (dealing with National Highways and other Centrally sponsored schemes); The Engineer-in-Chief and Chief Engineers of State PWDs and UTs (dealing with National Highways and other Centrally sponsored schemes); The Chairman, National Highways Authority of India; The Director General (Border Roads).

Subject : Access for Fuel/Service Stations along National Highways

It has come to the notice of the Ministry that a number of new retail outlets have been set up and made operational along National Highways in various states without obtaining the requisite permissions for grant of access for these facilities in total disregard to the guidelines issued vide the Ministry's letter No. RW/NH-33023/19/99-D.O. III dated 17.10.2003. In some other cases, even though permission for access was obtained from Ministry but the layout plan approved by the Ministry was not followed at site during execution. This Ministry has taken a serious view of non-enforcement of said guidelines.

2. It is pertinent to mention that the guidelines stipulating norms for the access for fuel/service stations along National Highways, issued vide the Ministry's letter mentioned above, were finalized in consultation with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, and were made applicable to all new fuel stations from the date of issue of the same, i.e. from 17.10.2003. Adherence to these stipulated norms is an absolute necessity from safety point of view.

3. In Para 10.6 of Appendix-I of the said norms, it has been clearly stipulated that "The 'No Objection Certificate' by the Licensing Authority' through their field units, would be issued and construction permitted only after the necessary approval has been given by Ministry and license deed duly signed and delivered." Further, Para 10.9 of Appendix-I of the said norms *inter-alia* stipulate that the concerned oil companies would be allowed to energize the fuel stations only after issue of a Completion Certificate by the concerned field unit of NHAI/PWD/BRO or any other agency (as the case may be).

4. In view of this it is desired that all concerned Executive Agencies associated with works pertaining to National Highways shall immediately furnish the NH-wise details of the new retail outlets set up on or after 17.10.2003 (i.e. the date of issue of Ministry's present guidelines for grant of access permission for fuel/service stations), for which

- (i) Access Permission from NH has not been obtained and Retail outlets have been energized; and
- (ii) Even though access permission has been obtained, the layout plan as approved by the Ministry has not been followed at site during construction of the facility.

These details may be furnished as per the proforma enclosed herewith latest by 15th April, 2006.

