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*Dated the 19th March, 1987*

To

1. The Chief Engineers of States & Union Territories PWDs dealing with National Highways and other Centrally Financed Roads.
2. The Director General (Works), Central PWD.
3. The Director General Border Roads.
4. The Chief Engineer, Pamban Bridge Project.

Subject : Launching of precast girders

In this Ministry's Circular letter No. NHIII/P/18/178 dated the 18th December 1978 on "Some guidelines for ensuring safety to men and materials during the construction of bridges-special precautions for Prestressed Concrete Structures", certain safety measures were highlighted regarding launching, handling and erection operations of precast girders (vis. lifting, side shifting transporting, launching in position etc). However, it has been observed that these guidelines are not being strictly followed during construction stage thus resulting in mishape. Recently an accident has been reported in which a precast beam fell down while side shifting as a result of some mechanical failure. Since the work was being executed departmentally, the loss had to be written off.

2. Therefore, it becomes imperative to reiterate the instructions contained in this Ministry's Circular letter referred to above and further it is suggested that the contents of this circular may be brought to the notice of field staff for information, guidance and strict compliance. A copy of the instructions issued to the field formations may also please be endorsed to this Ministry for information.