

No. RW/RMP-20(5)/85

*Dated the 26th June, 1985*

To

All Chief Engineers of States/Union Territories dealing with Roads

Subject : Annual Plans — Revival and Introduction of new concrete paving technology

In view of general shortfall in funds allotted to Road Development, it is imperative that choice of the type of pavement should be made purely on the overall economic consideration than on the basis of traditional practices. Several studies carried out in the Ministry have shown that with present cost structure of materials for highway construction, concrete pavements will be more economical in most cases. It has, therefore, been decided that State PWDs should include cement concrete pavement in at least some of the projects included in the Annual/Five Year Plan.

2. The choice of section should be based on sound economic analysis spread over life of pavement and sections showing highest economic return should be recommended. For methodology of economic evolution reference may be made to IRC special publication 30. Other consideration which favour use of cement concrete pavements are :

- (1) Need for optimum utilisation of scarce resources. Cement concrete pavements require less aggregates than an equivalent flexible pavement thus appreciable savings will result where aggregates are scarce and where loads for carriage are excessive.
- (2) The increasing cost of bitumen is likely to make bituminous specifications costly. On the other hand production of cement is showing marked improvement and its availability is not likely to be a constraints.
- (3) Availability of better construction equipment makes it possible to achieve targets of completion and get a good riding surface which results in savings in operational cost of vehicles.

3. The technology of concrete paving has improved considerably over the past decade and new machinery is now available to facilitate rapid construction with control on riding quality. Use of new concrete batch mix plant, conveyors, slip-form pavers, finishers, dowel placing machines, trimmers, can enable laying of quality concrete at relatively low cost. Maximum use should be made of such facilities.

4. It is requested that the State/Union Territories Chief Engineers may kindly examine their plans for future road development and proposals with full economic appraisal be sent to Ministry for sanction. An early action in the matter will be very much appreciated.