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No. NHIII/P/2/84

*Dated the 3rd May 1984*

To

The Secretaries of all State Governments  
(Departments dealing with National Highways)

Subject : Survey and Investigations for Road/Bridge Projects

The Government of India appointed a High Powered Committee in February, 1982 to review the functioning of present Agency System pertaining to execution of National Highway Works and has recom-

mended the measures for ensuring more efficient functioning of this system. The said recommendations have been accepted by this Ministry and a copy of the same has been forwarded to all Public Works Departments and other concerned agencies for information and necessary action.

2. Inadequate survey and investigation is one of the main reasons identified for cost and time overruns. The Committee's recommendations in this regard are as under :—

“The Ministry should define the precise scope of survey and investigations for each road or bridge projects and insist that they are carried out to its satisfaction before it issues the relevant sanction. In case where a State does not have the requisite expertise to carry out such investigations, the Ministry should at its discretion get them carried out through any other suitable Agency”.

3.1 For ensuring availability of required data for preparation of the road projects in a precise manner, this Ministry has issued circulars numbers NHI-37 (2)/170 dated 2.4.1970, NHIII/Misc/178/73 dated 16.11.1974, NHIII/P/31/77 dated 30.1.77. Besides Indian Roads Congress Special Publication No. 19 of 1977. Manual for survey, investigation and preparation of Road Projects, is also available.

3.2 The requirements regarding the basic design data to be collected for a bridge project may be found in Ministry's letter No. PL-2 (1)/70 dated 18.1.71. Besides this, references may also be made to IRC : 5-1970, IRC : 78-1983 and Ministry of Shipping & Transport (Roads Wing) Specifications for Road and Bridge Works.

4. For major projects, separate estimates for survey and investigations can be got sanctioned by the Ministry in respect of the works provided in the plan. Greater emphasis is now placed on the quality of the projects and hence the States should have the requisite infrastructure to carry out the detailed investigations and survey in case of all major projects. This requirement is equally important in respect of the minor works also.

5. It is therefore, requested that steps to create necessary infrastructure may please be taken in this regard and a list of the major works included in the plans needing advance action may be forwarded for consideration as and when required.