

No. RW/NH-33044/11/97-S&amp;R

Dated, the 28th July, 1999

To

The Chief Secretaries/Secretaries (PWD/Roads) of all State Governments/UTs/Chief Engineers of States/UTs (dealing with National Highways & Centrally Sponsored Schemes); Director General Border Roads; Chairman, National Highways Authority of India

Subject : Passing Places on Hill Roads

Passing Places are required on single-lane hill roads to facilitate crossing of vehicles approaching from opposite direction and overtaking of slow moving vehicles. These could also be used to tow aside disabled vehicles so that they do not obstruct traffic. The guidelines for provision of Passing Places are already included in the Indian Roads Congress Publications IRC:52-1981 "Recommendations about the Alignment Survey and Geometric Design of Hill Roads" and IRC:SP 48-1998 "Hill Road Manual". According to these guidelines, passing places should be provided in general at the rate of 2-3 per km. The normal size of a passing place is 3.75 m wide, 30 m long on the inside edge (i.e. carriageway side) and 20 m long on the farther side. The exact location needs to be judiciously determined taking into consideration the available extra width and visibility. All the road construction agencies including the Border Roads Organisation are required to follow these guidelines for provision of passing places.

It has, however, been observed that passing places have not been provided at a number of hill roads as per the requirements mentioned in IRC guidelines. It is, therefore, requested that necessary action may be initiated to provide passing places as per IRC guidelines at the required locations on single-lane hill roads as early as possible. Further, in respect of National Highways, estimates for providing such passing places may be forwarded to the Ministry for sanction, wherever found necessary.

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