

No. NHIII/P/15/79

*Dated 1st August, 1979*

To

All State Govts./Union Territories (Deptts. dealing with National Highways)

Subject: Lining of drainage/irrigation channels running close to the National Highways

I am directed to say that it has, of late, been observed that in certain areas in the country where water table has risen in the last 10 to 15 years or may be still rising due to more irrigation being brought into these areas and aggravated floodibility problems, the road surface of the National Highways is getting wavy and the road crust has started showing signs of distress. The waviness in the road is breaking the road crust in the vicinity where the irrigation distributory/channels is/are crossing the road or running parallel to it. Obviously, this is due to seepage of water from the irrigation distributory/channels running beneath the road surface.

2. Apart from the National Highways, the State Roads may also have been affected. It is, therefore, in the States' own interest to take some preventive measures to remedy the situation for the States Road System. One of the measures that can conceivably be adopted to check leakage/seepage of water is by lining the irrigation channels to minimise rise of water table due to percolation and also by way of states considering to bring in some tube-well irrigation etc. Besides, the States may also consider improving the flood drainage system of the affected areas so that the flood water is drained off the road with the least possible delay.
  3. I am, accordingly, to request the State Government to give serious thought to this problem and assess the situation in their States and consider, in consultation with the States Irrigation and Flood Control Authorities, as to what steps should be taken to remedy the situation. The results of your assessment of this situation and the remedial measures that may be taken in the matter may please be intimated to this Ministry at an early date.
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