

No. NHIL/P/44/82

Dated the 22nd July, 1982

To

1. All State Governments
(Depts. dealing with Roads)
2. DGBR, New Delhi
3. DG (Works), CPWD

Subject: Adoption of prescribed standards for borrowpits for road embankments

It has been observed that in many States the prescribed standards and procedures for borrowpits for road embankments are not being followed. Non-observance of the prescribed standards laid down in IRC-10-1961 "Recommended Practice for Borrowpits for Road Embankments Constructed by Manual Operation", has resulted in deep borrowpits of all shapes very close to the toe of the embankment. This has ultimately developed into deep standing water channels sometime resulting in parallel flow along the embankment, thereby endangering the safety of the road. In locations where widening of the road to four-lane carriageway is to be carried out at a later-date, the deep borrowpits close to the existing embankment have to be filled up resulting in additional expenditure. If at the stage of formulation of the project, the quantity of earth needed and the sources from which the same is to be obtained have been identified with sufficient care, such situations will not arise.

2. A serious view would have to be taken of the instances where the prescribed procedures are not followed. In such cases, the State Governments may be asked hold enquiries for such lapses and fix responsibility and even to compensate an avoidable extra expenditure. State Governments may also consider taking disciplinary action against officials who are not exercising adequate care in following the standards.
 3. The contents of this letter may be brought to the notice of all officers handling National Highways and other Centrally funded works.
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