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No. NHIII/P/16/75

Dated the 28th June, 1976

To

Chief Engineers and Addl. Chief Engineers of State P.W.Ds. and Union Territories dealing with National Highways

Sub: Proper control over the quality of crushed stone aggregates used in pavement courses of National Highways

Crushed stone is mostly used as aggregate for base-course and bituminous base/surfacing courses on National Highways. For good performance and durability of these courses, it is essential that the aggregates used are of the requisite quality and gradings. Requirements in this regard are spelt out in the Ministry's Specification for Road and Bridge Works.

2. To ensure that the aggregates used in the works are of the specified quality and gradings, quality control tests are required to be carried out. The tests to be performed in this regard and their minimum frequency are laid down in the Ministry's Specification/I.R.C. Handbook on Quality Control. This Ministry have also been issuing instructions regarding the manner of exercising adequate control over the quality of materials and of works from time to time, the last one being the letter of even number, dated the 17th March, 1976.

3. With a view to clarifying and emphasizing further, it may be pointed out that the primary control should be exercised in selecting quarry itself and by stationing staff at the quarry to ensure that the weathered overburden or the stones of sub-standard quality are not crushed for the supply and carried to the site. The same staff could also carry out some tests for physical properties like Aggregate Impact Value and grading to ensure that the material actually crushed is of the requisite quality. No doubt, additional testing would also be needed at the site of works for secondary control. It is necessary that samples for the tests should be representative of the aggregates to be used, and collected in accordance with the procedure set forth in IS : 2430.

4. It is requested that the contents of this circular may be brought to the notice of all officers in your department engaged on National Highway Works.

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