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No. NH-11042/1/87-NHIII/DI

Dated the 3rd August, 1988

To

1. The Director General (Works), CPWD
2. The Director General Border Roads
3. All Chief Engineers of State/Union Territories Administrations dealing with National Highways and Centrally Sponsored Schemes

Subject : Quality Control on National Highways and other Centrally sponsored works — A single line control on checking.

The Ministry in its letter No. NHIII/P/1/83 dated 19.4.84 circulated detailed guidelines regarding the methodology to be followed to ensure quality work on its projects and also simultaneously observing that quality control is a growing and dynamic process and hence the proposed system will have to be periodically evaluated based on the feed-back. Based on the feed-back the Ministry issued *vide* its letter of even number dated the April 18, 1988, the circular No. 406.13, on 'Quality Assurance System for road works on National Highways and other Centrally Sponsored Highway Schemes'.

2. The Transport Development Council's Standing Committee on Roads and Road Transport in its meeting held on 30th March, 1988 deliberated on the item of Quality Assurance on Highway Projects and amongst other things observed that there should be a single line control on checking the quality of work.

3. The Ministry's circular No. NHIII/P/1/83 dated 19.4.84 envisages the set up of Quality Control Organisation directly under the Engineer-in-Chief/Chief Engineer with Central Laboratory and Regional Laboratories (headed by Executive Engineers Quality Control) and also the norms for frequency of test check by supervisory staff. However, it has come to the notice of the Ministry that there is no uniformity in application and most of the States follow centralised quality control system through independent Quality Control divisions under the direct charge of the Chief Engineer/Engineer-in-Chief.

4. In light of the position obtaining, as stated in para 3 above, it is reiterated that —

4.1 The Central and Regional Laboratories should function to help in

- (i) Research activities;
- (ii) Testing of materials;
- (iii) Training quality control personnel

but they themselves should not involve in day to day quality control requirements related to works.

4.2 For purposes of day to day quality control on a particular work, there should be separate staff under the direct control of the Engineer/Executive Engineer who is responsible for making payment, since he is fully responsible and answerable in regard to the quality of work.

4.3 Where Chief Engineer/Engineer-in-Chief desires to conduct independent test check (s) on the quality of work, he may do so through a unit meant for such a purpose. However, this unit should not involve itself with day to day checking of quality on works.

5. Actions contained in para 4 above will meet the requirements of a single line control on checking the quality of work philosophy.

6. The contents of this circular may please be brought to notice of all concerned in your organisation. The Ministry may also please be kept informed of the action(s) taken to implement the same. At the same time the Ministry would appreciate if you could forward your experience with the system in question in due course.