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Dated the 4th June, 1992.

To

Chief Engineers of all State PWDs/UTs dealing with National Highways, Director General (works),
CPWD, Director General (Border Roads).

Subject. Use of bituminous emulsion for repairs on National Highways during the wet season and application of renewal coat in the immediate pre-monsoon period.

It has been noticed that the existing methodology of filling potholes, patching and similar minor repair works carried out on bitumen surfacings on National Highways during the wet season seldom produces satisfactory results. In many places, works of pothole filling have been observed to be carried out by simply filling with brick bats, stone aggregates and sometimes even local earth. Alternatively, where bituminous materials have been

used, the same are generally done with different grades of straight-run bitumen which does not produce good and durable results during wet season.

2. In view of the above, it has now been decided that all repair works including pothole filling, patching and surfacing in short stretches required on bituminous surfacings during wet seasons must invariably be carried out with stone metal and bitumen emulsions. It is, therefore, necessary that the field units arrange to have adequate stock of bitumen emulsion with them prior to the beginning of the wet season every year without fail. No such work during wet season should be permitted with straight run bitumen.

3. In fact, the above strategy should also be adopted for any preventive surface treatment (20 mm renewal coat or simply seal coat) carried out in the immediate premonsoon season in order to save on fuel and achieve a water resistant, anti-stripping road surface.

4. To enable your field staff to take prompt action, sufficient quantity of bitumen emulsion should be procured by each sub-division, particularly just before the monsoon, and during course of the monsoon as necessary. Such measures, taken well in time, will not only preserve the riding quality of the highways all through the year but will also ensure longer life for the bituminous surfacing. In this respect, attention of the States is also invited to the relevant suggestions contained in the 'Code of Practice for Maintenance of Bituminous Surfaces of Highways' (IRC : 82) which covers all the above aspects of road maintenance.

5. Bitumen emulsion is now available on DGSD rate contract and there should be no difficulty to arrange supplies for the same at short notice.

6. It is requested that instruction to this effect may please be issued to all officers dealing with National Highways, along with confirmation to the Ministry that this has been done.
