

No. RW/NH-35072/1/2001-S&R(R)

Dated, the 21st June, 2001

To

The Secretaries/Chief Engineers/UTs. of States/Union Territories, Public Works Departments (dealing with National Highways); Chairman, National Highways Authority of India; Director General Border Roads

Subject: Use of rubber and polymer modified bitumen in road works

Reference is invited to Ministry's letter No. RW/NH-34041/36/90-S&R(Vol.II) dated 21st April, 1999 and 5th June, 2000 on the subject with instructions for use of modified bitumen in road works and reporting performance feedback. However, it has been observed that the use of modified bitumen has not picked up as desired inspite of best persuasion of the Ministry. The issue has also been taken up at Chief Engineers' meeting in the past to promote use of new materials. The initiatives and efforts made towards introducing new techniques and materials in road construction were reviewed in the Ministry and it has been decided that-

- (i) The use of modified bitumen in wearing course should be encouraged and the adoption of this new technology has to be promoted in road works in view of its various advantages and improved performance over conventional bitumen.
- (ii) The modified bitumen should strictly conform to the specifications laid down in the IRC:SP:53-1999 and Ministry's upgraded specifications under Section 500 published by Indian Roads Congress.
- (iii) Some industrial units and refineries have started commercial manufacture of modified bitumen. The use of manufactured products should be promoted to eliminate the problem of site mixing and also to ensure quality of works.
- (iv) It is noted that even though some of the States have adopted new technology of using modified bitumen, the feedback on using the same is not forthcoming. Your experience on use of modified bitumen will be useful for evaluating relative performance and suitability of different kinds of rubber and polymer modifiers and reviewing of the tentative guidelines given in IRC:SP:53-1999.

It is, therefore, requested that feedback on performance, along with relevant details and action taken in the matter may please be reported to the Ministry.
