

No. RW/NHIII/Misc./21/84

Dated the 27th January, 1986

To,

All Chief Engineers of States & U.T. concerned with National Highways;  
DG (Works)

Subject : Wastage and pilferage of bitumen used in road construction — steps to be taken to curb

Please refer to this Ministry's letter of even number dated the 9th July, 1984 wherein the State Governments were requested to take immediate action to plug loopholes which lead to the pilferage of bitumen so that this criminal activity is fought effectively, under intimation to the Ministry. The State Governments have so far not intimated the action taken by time in this regard.

2. The reported wastage and pilferage of bitumen from road works is a matter of deep concern to all of us as this leads to sub standard work. The measures considered essential by the Ministry in this regard and to be adopted by the executing authorities are spelt below :

**I. Wastage of bitumen by burning as fuel**

Considerable quantity of bitumen is wasted by using it as a fuel to heat the bitumen. It should be banned and stern action prescribed against the offender. The use of bitumen boilers should be made compulsory on all works including maintenance where bitumen is being used.

**II Wastage in storing**

Improper and careless handling of packed bitumen drums while storing also amounts to wastage to a considerable extent. Instructions should be issued for proper storing of the bitumen.

**III. Pilferage**

- (i) On major road projects involving hot mixed— hot laid bituminous material using pavers, bulk procurement shall be resorted to as far as practical from economic considerations.
- (ii) Where drum packed bitumen is used for maintenance and other works like repair works etc. of small magnitude or works located at places far away from the refineries, where it may not be economical or feasible to have bulk supply, it should be made obligatory on the department to inscribe name of the PWD Division on the body of the bitumen drum together with its date of receipt so as to be conspicuous. Whenever the Contractor is issued the bitumen drums for using in the work, a stock/consumption register should be maintained by him and should be available at any time for inspection purposes.
- (iii) The actual consumption of bitumen in the work should be ascertained by various quality control measures to ensure that the stipulated quantity has actually been used in the work. In case of shortage, the Contractor should be penalised not only for the sub standard work but also for using less quantity of bitumen in work which should be recovered from him at double the issue rate plus penalty. This requirement should get reflected as a condition in the tender and contract documents.

In case where dereliction of duty is noticed, action should be taken against the individual responsible.

- (iv) Supply of bitumen to the contractor should not be far in advance than the schedule of actual use.