

No. NHII-31 (12)/73

Dated the 18th June, 1974

To

The Secretaries to all State Govts. (dealing with roads).

Sub : Norms for maintenance of National Highways—Revision of.

In response to Ministry's letter No. NHI-41 (1)/70, dated the 9th February 1970 certain suggestion/data for revising the norms for maintenance of National Highways were received from the State. The same have been examined and analysed in the Roads Wing. In view of the current financial stringency however, it is felt that it is not the opportune time to make any upward revision of the same at this stage. It is, therefore, essential to restrict expenditure on the maintenance and repairs of National Highways to the barest minimum possible. For this purpose, the following measures are suggested for adoption.

A. Ordinary repairs

(i) In para 2.4.2. of the final report of the Technical Group regarding norms for maintenance of National Highways, it was suggested that the maintenance operation should be modernised leading both to efficiency and perhaps some economy. For this purpose the labourers should move about collectively in groups of about 10 in a truck equipped with necessary basic tools for routine maintenance. This suggestion of the group may be considered for being implemented. Any existing crew found surplus as a result of the same, could be diverted to maintenance works on nearby States roads, Rural roads etc.

(ii) An effective control should be exercised on the maintenance gangs with a view to ensuring the required output of work assigned to them each day on a weekly or fortnightly work programme assignment basis.

(iii) The approved norms allow a lumpsum provision of Rs. 200 per mile for Arboriculture and landscaping. The same should be utilised sparingly and only on really inescapable works. The amount thus saved could be utilised on more important items of ordinary repairs.

(iv) There is a provision of Rs 400/- per mile allowed for the item of original works treated as repairs under the sub-head "ordinary repairs" This amount should be utilised only on urgent and inescapable works to be personally selected by the State Chief Engineer. Attempt should be to save on this for utilising amount for other more items of repairs.

(v) For inspection bungalows, rests houses, godowns etc., a lumpsum provision of Rs 150/- per mile has been allowed under the sub-head 'ordinary repairs'. This amount should be utilised only on such of those structures the ownership of which vests in the Central Government. This requirement has been brought to the notice of the State Government also in the past.

B. Renewals

As large scale works of improvements/upgrading of National Highways have been sanctioned during the Fourth Five Year Plan and the same are in various stages of progress/completion, the lengths requiring renewals would be substantially less than those indicated in the approved norms. The extra costs involved in the work due to increase in wages and labour and prices of materials could be met from the savings which would thus be available.

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3. It is requested that the above instructions may be brought to the notice of all concerned. It may also please be ensured that no excess of any kind occurs over the funds allotted for maintenance during the year, maintaining sub-head-wise control as well as National Highway-wise.