

No. RW-33044/10/2000-S&R(R)

Dated the 12th June, 2002

To

The Secretaries of States/Union Territories, Public Works Departments (dealing with National Highways). All Chief Engineers of States/Union Territories (dealing with National Highways). The Chairman, National Highways Authority of India, The Director General (Border Roads), All Regional Officers of the Ministry and All Chief Engineers of Ministry of Road Transport & Highways.

Subject: Floods preparedness - steps to be taken for maintenance of road communications on National Highways.

Reference is invited to Ministry's letter No.PL-67(29)/76-NH-VI dated 28th June, 1979 and letter No. NHIII/P/13/79 dated 4th August, 1991 emphasising the need for keeping the National Highways which form the life lines of road transport in the country, open to traffic at all times. It has been the general experience that the rains and floods affect traffic operation and performance of the road pavements and in certain cases are causes of severe damages. Adverse effects of this kind can, however, be mitigated to a great extent by timely action based on inspection and close monitoring of the road conditions.

2. For safeguarding the National Highways from damages during rains and to ensure effective road communications during the rainy season, following advance action prior to rains may please be taken.

- (i) Road side drains, catch water drains, catch pits etc. should be cleaned of all debris;
- (ii) Any blockage in the waterways of culverts should be cleared.
- (iii) Protection works such as slope pitching on embankments, bed flooring and other erosion control provisions at culverts should be inspected and kept in good order.
- (iv) Scoured areas in the vicinity of abutments piers of culverts, which are likely to endanger the safety of the structure, should be appropriately filled with stones/boulders.
- (v) Road construction material should be stored in areas not likely to be effected by floods.
- (vi) Any potholes, cracks, pitting in the pavement surface should be properly repaired and filled up.
- (vii) Berms should be dressed and made good in profile so that water does not stagnate but flows off during rains.

A compliance report regarding advance action taken may please be sent to the Ministry latest by 30th June, 2002.

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