

No. NHIII/P/13/79

Dated the 7th August, 1980

To

All State Chief Engineers
(dealing with National Highways)

Sub : Floods preparedness—Steps to be taken for maintenance of road communication

I am directed to say that recently the Govt. of India (Department of Agriculture) has issued urgent instructions to all State Govts. and Union Territories on flood preparedness. Amongst other things, it has been desired that cross drains and natural drains should be kept open and vital road communications maintained.

2. It is presumed that you have already taken necessary action regarding proper maintenance of roads and are also maintaining close liaison with the State Flood Control authorities so that in case of sudden floods or breaches in bunds/tanks etc. preventive action is taken promptly. In regard to maintenance of roads, following aspects may kindly be kept in view :

- i) All longitudinal and cross-drains may be cleaned up so that there is no clogging up during rainfall.
- ii) For prompt repairs to potholes, advance collection of aggregates and binder may be made specially in vulnerable sections of highways. In areas of continuous and heavy rainfall, it may be desirable to use cut-back or-suitable type of binder. Patching of potholes may be done promptly.
- iii) Road shoulders may be kept nearly dressed to a slope of 4%.
- iv) Road side ditches/borrow pits may be continuously connected so that surface water is drained out to a suitable outfall.
- v) All culverts may be inspected to ensure that there is no reduction in water-way and that the structures are sound.
- vi) In case of high embankments, existing protection works may be inspected and repaired wherever necessary. Where there is no pitching etc., turfing may be done during the rainy season.