

NHIII/P/2/79

*Dated the 2nd May, 1979*

To

All State Governments. (Deptts. dealing with Highways)

Sub : Need for ensuring safety of completed bridges on National Highways and under other Centrally financed Schemes—Carrying out soundings in the river bed after every flood season and reporting the results thereof to Roads Wing with copies to Regional offices

You might be aware that with a view to highlighting the need for paying proper attention to all important aspects essential for proper planning, designing, execution and maintenance of bridges this Ministry has already brought to your kind notice suitable steps (as enumerated hereunder) that should be taken to ensure safety and serviceability of our bridge structures :

- i) Detailed guidelines for ensuring safety of bridge structures issued vide this Ministry's circular No. NHV-11 (6)/73 dated 19.11.1974;
- ii) Circular issued vide this Ministry letter No. PL-67 (29)/76 dated 31.8.1978;
- iii) Circular issued vide this Ministry letter No. NHIII/P/18/78 dated 18.12.1978; and
- iv) Instructions regarding need for keeping a close watch on completed National Highway bridges during post-construction observation periods for proper maintenance and upkeep thereafter and importance of proper handing over notes while transferring such works to new Divisions/other Government Agencies conveyed vide our Circular No. NHIII/P/2/79 dated 8.1.1979

In addition, the I.R.C. has already brought out a very useful publication of theirs entitled "Manual for the Highway Bridge Maintenance Inspection" (IRC Special Publication-18).

2. In para 2.5 (iv to vi) of our Circular No. NHV-11 (6)/73 dated 19.11.74 and our circular of 31.8.1978, the importance of carrying out soundings in the river bed has been emphasised. It is expected that necessary instructions have since been issued to your Field Officers to the effect that soundings should be taken in the river bed before and after every flood season and immediate corrective measures should be taken to prevent any detrimental effect of scour in the vicinity of the piers, abutments and other parts of substructure and training works. It has now been decided that for all bridges on National Highways and those financed from Central funds, the detailed reports embodying the above mentioned observations/soundings should be sent to the Roads Wing with copies being endorsed to our Regional Offices. Necessary instructions may kindly be issued to all concerned for suitable compliance in this regard in future. This may kindly be treated as urgent and it is requested that receipt of this letter may please be acknowledged.