

No. NHVI-67 (3)/79

Dated the 4th August, 1979

To

All State Chief Engineers dealing with N.Hs

Sub : National Highways Bridges Financed either in full or in part from Central Funds Highway Bridge Maintenance—Removal of vegetational growth obstructing waterway and that over masonry arch bridges

Your kind attention is invited to paras 4.3. (3) (v) and 4.3. (7) (iv) of I.R.C. Special Publication No. 18 "Manual for Highway Bridge Maintenance Inspection", which prescribes keeping a watch during the periodical maintenance inspections on any obstruction in the waterway due to the plant growth below the bridges across nallahs/streams and on the vegetational growth over masonry arches spandrel walls, parapet walls etc. As the consequences of allowing such growth are obvious, the importance of removing such vegetation regularly need not be over emphasized on the bridge/road engineers.

2. Instances have, however, come to the notice of this Ministry wherein the field engineers of State Public Works Departments do not appear to have paid any attention to this important aspect of highway bridge maintenance. It is, therefore, once again stressed that the growth of vegetation under the bridges, which blocks the waterway and thus creates higher afflux and higher velocities of flow through the bridge and resultant damages and that over the superstructures of masonry arch bridges, spandrel walls, parapets, wing walls, etc. which causes disintegration of mortar and masonry and thus weakens the structure should not be allowed to develop. All such vegetational growth should be detected and removed during the pre-monsoon inspections of bridges.

3. It is requested that a bridge-wise report of such pre-monsoon inspections and removal of vegetation wherever observed should be prepared by each field Executive Engineer in respect of bridges in his jurisdiction and forwarded regularly to the concerned Regional Officer of this Ministry and also to the Ministry before the onset of monsoons every year.

4. Contents of this letter may be brought to the notice of all Road/Bridge Engineers dealing with National Highways and other Centrally aided Road/Bridge Works in your State.

---