

D.O. No. RW/NHVI-67 (29)/76

Dated the 3rd December, 1983

To

- 1) All Secretaries of State PWDs Incharge of National Highways (by Name)
- 2) All Chief Engineers of State PWDs, incharge of National Highways (By Name), including C.E. Pamban Bridge Project.

Sub : Periodic inspection and maintenance of bridges on N.Hs.

Indian Roads Congress has brought out Special Publication No. 18 "Manual for Highway Bridge Maintenance Inspection" in Feb '78 to serve as a guideline to Maintenance Engineers. The Ministry has been from time to time issuing circular letters pressing the necessity of periodic inspection of bridges as brought out in the above publication. The importance of periodic inspection of bridge structures has been highlighted and brought to the notice of State Chief Engineers vide D.O. letter of even no. dated 28.2.83 from Director General (Road Development) & Addl. Secretary.

2. The salient aspects like periodicity of the inspection, level of inspection, details of inspection, system of reporting etc. were enumerated and circulated once again to all the State Chief Engineers for guidance vide Circular letter of even no. dated 2.3.83. This was followed up with my D.O. letter of even no. dated 6.5.83 addressed to all State PWD Secretaries and all State Chief Engineers. The matter was also discussed in several meetings of the Chief Engineers. It is, however, noticed during my inspections that the matter has not received the adequate attention that it deserves and it is paining me very much.

3. Some of the important points are again listed below for ready reference :

- i) Bridge registers to be maintained after careful inspection of various components of the bridge so that timely action can be

- taken to repair the bridges, especially in the coastal region where sea atmosphere corrodes the reinforcement.
- i) Each Superintending Engineer to have guniting machine in his T & P and train one of the workers to use this machine; Any crack, spalling should be sealed immediately. "A stitch in time saves nine."
 - iii) To indicate the date of cleaning and greasing of metallic bearings on the face of pier/abutment.
 - iv) To provide necessary steps on either side of the bridge to enable the inspecting officer to go down to the bridge to inspect the underside of the girders etc.
 - v) To inspect the underside of the bridge with a boat and measure scour during monsoon at each of the piers with an echo sounder in respect of major bridges; and
 - vi) To remove at regular frequent intervals to be specified by the Superintending Engineer of the State PWD incharge of the particular bridge any vegetation growth observed in the various parts of the bridge.

3.1. We shall be thankful if suitable instructions are issued to all officers incharge of maintenance of bridges to bestow special attention regarding the above important requirements.

3.2. A copy of the instructions so issued may please be sent to this Ministry for record.