

D.O. No. RW/NH-34059/2/2001-S&R(B)

Dated the 31st January, 2003

To

The Chairman, National Highways Authority of India, Director General (Border Roads) and all Chief Engineers at PWD dealing with National Highways.

Subject: Normal maintenance of Bridges on National Highways

It has been noted that normal maintenance of bridges on National Highways are generally neglected, which often results into distress situations at a later date. I would like to mention some of the simple activities which should be taken up as part of routine maintenance of bridges, but often neglected.

(i) **Cleaning of expansion joints**

Expansion joint gaps are often filled with dirt and bituminous material during bituminous overlay work/periodical renewal of adjacent section. This is not correct. Expansion joint gaps should be cleared of all debris and filled up material.

(ii) **Repair of wearing coat on the deck**

Bituminous overlay work periodical renewal is often continued on the bridge deck. This is not correct as it result in overloading of the bridge not accounted for in the design. It is, therefore, emphasized that while calculating quantities for bituminous overlay PR the area covered by the bridge decks must be excluded.

(iii) **Cleaning of drainage spouts**

(iv) **Repair of broken railings/guard posts/paraper walls.**

(v) **Clearing debris and vegetation in the waterway and in bridge structure.**

2. I, therefore, request you to issue suitable instructions to all Field Officers for immediate compliance.
