

No. RW/NHIII/P/2/79

Dated the 18th November, 1986

To

1. The Chief Engineers of States & Union Territories PWDs dealing with National Highways and other Centrally Financed Roads.
2. The Director General (Works), Central PWD.
3. The Director General.

Subject : Regular inspection of bridges on National Highways and under other Centrally Financed Schemes

Detailed instructions have been issued by the Ministry from time to time about regular inspections to be carried out for bridges on National Highways and under other Centrally Financed Schemes. Officers of the State PWDs are required to inspect bridges (especially the major ones) twice a year (once before the floods and then after the floods) and furnish a detailed report to the Roads Wing with copy to our Regional Officer clearly bringing out the areas of distress so that timely remedial measures could be thought of. In this connection, your kind attention is drawn to the following circular issued by the Ministry :

- (a) No. NHV-II(6)/73 dated 19.11.1974 regarding "Detailed guidelines for ensuring safety of bridge structures".
 - (b) No. NHIII/P/2/79 dated 8.1.1979 regarding "Need for keeping a close watch on completed National Highway bridges during post-construction observation periods".
 - (c) No. NHIII/P/2/79 dated 2.5.1979 regarding "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 the Roads Wing with copies to Regional Officers".
 - (d) No. NHVI-50(3)/83 dated 21.4.1983 regarding "Records to be kept in respect of bridges on NHs and other Centrally Sponsored Roads".
 - (e) No. RW/NHVI-67(29)/76 dated 3.12.1983 regarding "Periodic inspection and maintenance of bridges on NHs".
 - (f) No. PL-67(29)/76 dated 31.8.1978 regarding "Periodic inspection of highway structures on National Highways and other Centrally Financed bridge works — Observation of river behaviour during floods and prompt attention to any adverse effects noticed".
 - (g) No. PL-67(29)/76-NHVI dated 22nd September, 1978 regarding "Periodic inspection of Highway Structures on National Highways".
 - (h) No. NHVI-67(29)/76 dated 2nd March, 1983 regarding "Periodic inspection and Maintenance of Highway Structures on National Highways".
2. The recent partial collapse of Mandovi bridge on NH-17 in Goa has, inter alia, highlighted that our present system of preventive maintenance of bridges on National Highways based on meaningful inspections carried out during the service period of such structures needs to be suitably strengthened. It is once again reiterated that the instructions contained in the above mentioned Circular letters issued by the Ministry are required to be followed meticulously with a view to ensuring safety of bridges on National Highways and under other Centrally Financed Schemes. In addition, the guidelines contained in the "Manual for the Highway Bridge Maintenance Inspection" (IRC Special Publication-18) should be strictly followed.
3. It will be appreciated if all field formations under your control are asked to comply with the instructions contained in this communication *immediately*. A copy of the instructions issued to the field formations may also be endorsed to this Ministry for our information.