

No. NH-11047/1/87-DO-I

Dated, the 21st December, 1988.

To

The Chief Engineers of all States/U.Ts dealing with National Highways.

Subject: Augmentation of Distance Informatory/Destination Signs on National Highways under a time-bound programme.

Your attention is invited to this Ministry letter of even number dated the 8th September, 1988 containing detailed guidelines for installation of Distance Informatory/Destination Signs of reflective type along the National Highways. Targets fixed in this respect were that: (a) all the estimates for this purpose will be furnished by the State Chief Engineers by 31st October, 1988 and approved by the Ministry by 31st December, 1988; and (b) installation work will be completed by the State PWDs latest by 30th June, 1989. However, till now practically no estimates have been received by the Ministry. Since we attach great importance to the timely installation of these signs, it is requested that action in this regard may be taken expeditiously. This was also stressed at the Chief Engineers' meeting held at Madras on the 14th December, 1988.

2. Following additional clarifications about the procurement and installation of Destination Signs may also please be noted:

- (i) Overall planning of the sign requirements along with complete inscription details, size and exact location of each sign etc. should be got done at the headquarters level, rather than leaving the matter to field divisions. The field formations could however be associated in the process as required. Once this has been done, the procurement of signs should also be done in a consolidated manner at the headquarters for the State as a whole to ensure uniformity and adherence to the required standards.
- (ii) Each sign will be unique as regards the inscription details, size etc. and necessary working details thereof will have to be prepared for ensuring proper fabrication. For coordinating this activity, as also the planning and procurement process, one officer at the headquarters might be designated with overall responsibility in this regard. Ministry's Regional Officer/Engineer Liaison Officer could also be associated with this activity.
- (iii) In the circular letter mentioned above, it was suggested that preferably the signs should be got installed on a turnkey basis. However, considering the long distance between successive signs, there could be practical problems in some cases as regards installation of the signs by an outside agency. As an alternative option, therefore, the State PWDs could procure only the signs from the suppliers and get these installed themselves.
- (iv) Procurement of signs of the proper quality is very important. As explained in the circular letter, signs are to be made of retro-reflective sheeting (in trade terms known as "high-intensity" grade). It has to be ensured thus that none of the suppliers uses ordinary reflective sheeting of engineering, commercial or low-intensity grade. To comply with this requirement, it will be advisable to ask the intending sign suppliers to furnish a signed 7-year guarantee from the sheeting manufacturers ahead of their bids so that there is no problem about quality of reflective sheeting later on.
- (v) Regarding inscription on the signs, the earlier circular mentioned use of black paint over the white sheeting. As an alternative to this, cut letters of non-reflective black sheeting could be used for inscription. However, these must be bonded well on the white base sheeting.