

No. NHIII/P/24/76

Dated the 2nd April 1976

To

1. All State Governments & Union Territories (Departments dealing with National Highways)
2. All Chief Engineers/Addl. Chief Engineers of State P.W.D's dealing with NH's and Centrally financed works

Sub : Maintenance of berms and Road Signs

It has come to Ministry's notice that pavement edges and road shoulders and road signs are not being maintained properly on many of the National Highways. In the norms for maintenance circulated vide, Ministry's letter No. NHI-41 (6)/69 dated 24th July 1969, scope of ordinary repairs included proper upkeep of road pavement and shoulders and maintenance of road signs. Adequate funds for this purpose are also being released by the Ministry every year. It is, therefore, necessary that particular attention is paid by the States to ensure that pavement edges and road shoulders are kept well maintained. This aspect would need a higher degree of attention in the case of single lane carriageway and also to some extent in case of double lane carriageway till the programme of double laning of all National Highways is accomplished.

2. The requirement of putting up adequate approved road signs has been brought to the notice of the State Governments/PWD by the Ministry from time to time vide its letters Nos. SP-77 (9)/58 dated 3rd July 1959, SP-77 (7)/59 dated 7th Jan. 60, SP-77 (27)/60-Pt dated 6th March 70, PL-30 (128)/69 dated 9th April 70 and PL-80 (2)/71-SP, dated 27th July 1971 and special emphasis made at various Chief Engineers Meetings. In spite of this there is a continuing impression that National Highways are throughout deficient in road signs. It is therefore necessary that State Governments/PWDs devote particular attention to plan and put in all out efforts for making up this deficiency expeditiously. Expenditure required for the purpose may be met either from maintenance grant or from capital works head by having separate estimates sanctioned or by debiting to provision for contingencies of sanctioned development works estimates as is appropriate. In this context it may be noted that the Ninth Schedule of Motor Vehicles Act which contains the standard signs is under revision and revised sign system is expected to be notified soon. Care may be exercised to see that all new signs conform to the revised sign system. IRC is also preparing a Code of Practice for Road Signs which may be referred to for guidance regarding warrants, placement etc.

3. It is requested that the deficiencies and progress made in installing adequate signs may be intimated to the Ministry.