

No. RW/NH-33022/3/89/DO. II(6)

Dated the 3rd November, 1989

To

The Chief Engineers of State PWDs/UTs dealing with National Highways & Centrally Aided Road Projects, and State Roads; Director General Border Roads; Director General (Works), CPWD.

Subject: Safety precautions to be taken on roads running parallel to rivers or canals.

In a recent accident in one of the States, a passenger bus while moving on a road running parallel to a canal, lost control, crossed over the low embankment and crashed into the canal, causing heavy fatalities. While the detailed inquiry into the accident is yet to be completed, after taking into account the circumstances of the accident, the National Transportation Safety Board in the Cabinet Secretariat has in consultation with this Ministry circulated, vide their letter No. 3/15/TS/RT/NTSB/88 (16) dated the 20th June, 1989 to all State Governments and Union Territories Administrations, the following guidelines in respect of precautions to be taken in respect of roads running parallel to rivers and canals.

- (i) An embankment with a minimum height of about 2 ft. (0.6 m) may be provided along canal-side of the road where it is running adjacent to the canal.
- (ii) Drums may be provided along the canal at intervals wherever these are easily available on account of bitumen work being done.
- (iii) At places where drums may not be available readily, concrete delineators may be provided as per specifications given in IRC: 79-1981 "Recommended Practice for Road Delineators".
- (iv) At difficult sites where sharp curves may exist, crash barriers consisting of steel bars inside embankment walls (or of any other suitable design) may be provided.

2. It has been decided that these safety measures wherever required along the National Highways should be implemented by 30th June, 1990.

3. It is, therefore, requested that the existing safety measures on sections of National Highways running parallel to rivers or canals should be reviewed and wherever any augmentation is required, the proposals should be furnished to the Ministry expeditiously so that the necessary works could be completed by the target date.

4. As regards State Roads, the State PWDs are requested to take similar action from their own resources.