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Dated, the 4th February, 1997

To

Chief Engineers of States and Union Territories (dealing with National Highways and the Centrally financed schemes); Director General (Works), Central Public Works Department; Director General Border Roads

Subject : Need for taking up specific Road Safety works in 9th Five Year Plan.

Road accident scenario in the country has been a matter of concern. Despite low rate of vehicle ownership in India has a very high accident rate. About 60,600 lives were lost and 2,88,600 persons injured in 2,86,000 accidents on Indian roads, in 1993. Even though Driver's error is observed to be the cause in many accidents, the behaviour of driver is also influenced to a large extent by the condition of the roads and environment. Thus many low cost improvements in the roads can have very profound effect in improving the road safety.

2. There is need to include road safety related works in the annual plans of the 9th Five Year Plan. Works of the following nature could be considered under this category :

- (a) Geometric improvement of accident prone sections
- (b) Improvement of At-Grade Intersections and provision of Grade Separators
- (c) Provision of Guard rails/delineators at approaches to bridges/high embankments
- (d) Augmentation of traffic control devices such as signages, road markings etc.
- (e) Provision of Wayside Amenities and Truck Parking Laybys.

This matter was also highlighted by the Director General (Road Development) during the meeting of State Chief Engineers held at Nagpur on 16th January, 1997. It is requested that this requirement may kindly be kept in view while formulating proposals for works to be taken up under different Annual Plans of the 9th Five Year Plan.