

No. PL-50 (8)/72

*Dated the 4th June, 1976*

To,

The Secretaries to the State Public Works Departments, dealing with National Highways

Sub : Construction of speed breakers on National Highways

It has come to Ministry's notice that at many places on National Highways, local authorities are constructing road humps, i.e. speed breakers, to check the speed of vehicles. This is undesirable, as the function of National Highways is to facilitate movement of through traffic and not to hinder it. Speed breakers can be a source of serious hazards and accidents to the fast-moving vehicles. Generally the use of speed breakers is restricted to a residential localities or areas with a specialised land use such as university or hospital campuses. Their use on through roads is incorrect and needs to be deprecated.

2. After careful consideration, it has been decided that henceforth speed breakers should not be permitted on the National Highways. At particular locations where control on speed is regarded necessary for specific reasons, this may be ensured through speed limit signs and strict and rigorous enforcement. Alternatively, the provision of rumble strips or flashing signals may be considered to alert the drivers through audible/visual stimuli. A common application of rumble strips is the placement of intermittent, raised bituminous overlays across the roadway. Raised sections can be 15-25 mm high, 200-300 mm wide, and spaced about one metre centre to centre. A series of such strips, roughly 15-20 at one location, can caution the motorists sufficiently through combination of vibrations and rumbling noise. Since coarse-textured overlays are more effective, the raised sections should consist either of premixed carpet or bituminous surface dressing. As a rule, the decision about design and placement of flashing signals/rumble strips should be preceded by a careful examination of the circumstances obtaining in each case.

3. It is requested that these instructions may please be given wide publicity among the concerned officers in your department.