

No. RW/NHIII/P/29/78

Dated the 18th Nov. 1980

To

1. All State Govts. U.T. Admn. (Deptts. dealing with National Highways)
2. Director General Border Roads, New Delhi.
3. Director General Works, Central P.W.D., New Delhi.

Sub : Highway Barriers on National Highways

I am directed to say that the large number of barriers put up on the National Highways by the State Govts. or their agencies for collection of taxes, controlling unauthorised movement of goods etc. cause serious impediment to free movement of vehicles and goods. In the interest of free and unimpeded flow of traffic along the National Highways, the Ministry had issued detailed instructions in the matter, particularly circular letters No. NHIII/P/11/76 dated 28th Feb. 1976, No. NHIII/P/29/78 dated the 29th Oct. 1979 and 28th February, 1980. The main points made in those circulars were :

Circular No. NHIII/P/11/76 dated 28.2.76

- (i) The practice of putting physical barriers on National Highways is not favoured by this Ministry, but at present juncture the State Govts. may permit a barrier provided the same is considered absolutely necessary.
- (ii) Where permitted, the barrier should conform either of the three type designs contained in IRC: 41-1972 "Type Designs for Check Barriers" and its location approved by the State Chief Engineer.
- (iii) The barrier including the necessary laybys/widening of carriageway etc. should be constructed by the Highway Authority as deposit work at the cost of the agency requiring it.
- (iv) The check posts controlling the gates of the barriers should function round the clock to avoid inconvenience to through traffic. Where the gates are closed to stop a passing vehicle, these should be reopened immediately after checking which should be done in the least possible time.

Circular No NHIII/P/29/79 dated 18.10.79

- (v) The State Govts. may take immediate steps for the removal/rationalisation of barriers across National Highways except those which may be required for essential purposes such as enforcing law and order.
- (vi) At the inter-State boundary, the concerned State Govts. may arrange to have only one barrier which may be managed by evolving suitable arrangements coordinatedly by the concerned authorities of the Govts. The proposed unified check barrier should, however, not disturb the existing arrangement for barriers erected/to be erected for collection of fees on bridges costing more than Rs 25 lakhs on National Highways completed and opened to traffic on or after 1st April, 1976.

Circular No. NHIII/P/29/78 dated 28.2.1980

- (vii) The agreement with the President of India for maintenance and development of urban links of National Highways entered into by some of the State *inter-alia* includes a condition that the State Govt. shall ensure that Octroi or any other terminal taxes on through traffic and tolls are not levied by the local body concerned on the link roads maintained and/or developed at Central Govt. expenses. Despite this legal requirement, barriers for collection of taxes etc. have been put up on such urban links. The concerned State Govts. may take immediate steps to eliminate/rationalise these barriers on the urban links so that there is least impediment to through traffic.

2. The question about erection of check barriers was also considered by the Transport Development Council at its meeting held on 2nd August, 1980. The Council emphasised that all efforts should be made by the States to unify check barriers along the National Highways having single combined ones at inter-State boundaries and that they should be of proper design with separate lay-byes so as not to hinder movement of the through traffic. It was indicated that the Transport Ministry will be prepared to consider bearing the cost of these improvements in the case of National Highways in the interest of greater overall safety. Accordingly, the State Govts. may look into the existing arrangements of check barriers at the inter-State boundaries, and prepare proposals and cost estimates for combining the barriers into a single one and forward these to the Ministry for consideration.

3. The State Govts. are requested to extend their cooperation and ensure that impediment to the free movement of vehicles and goods on National Highways are removed by taking immediate steps at the State level to eliminate/rationalise the existing barriers. The Ministry may also please be apprised of the action taken in this regard.