

No. NHIII/P/2/77

Dated the 15th March, 1977

To

All Chief Engineers/Principal Engineers in the States and Union Territories (Deptt. dealing with National Highways)

Sub : Quick removal of vehicles involved in accidents on National Highways by State Police Authorities concerned

Instances have come to the notice of this Ministry where the vehicles involved in accidents on National Highways are allowed to remain at the site of the accidents for long periods for the police authorities to take Panchanama Report etc. resulting in serious discomfort for the fast moving traffic using the National Highway system. As the National Highways are designed for fast moving traffic and the Govt. of India have to make heavy investments on them to cater to the needs of the high speed traffic, obstructions of any kind on the National Highways are undesirable. It appears that the delay in the removal of vehicles and other things from the accident sites is due to the time involved in the arrival of the police party at the sites and the time taken in collecting material for pursuing the matter in the Court of Law. The Govt. of India feel, that in the case of accidents on National Highways the police party should immediately proceed to the site and arrange to remove the vehicles etc. from the National Highway as quickly as possible after the accident, of course after completing needed requirements, in order to enable the free flow of the traffic on the National Highways to be resumed without any delay. I am, therefore, to request that you may kindly consult and discuss the matter with the State Police Authorities concerned to explore the ways and means as to how the vehicles involved in accidents on National Highways could be removed from the site as quickly as possible after the occurrence of the accident and as to how the process could be made speedier to clear the roads.

1.2 One suggestion in this regard is for the police authorities to arrange for the expeditious photograph of the vehicles and other articles involved in the accident at the place of accident, record other necessary evidence and then remove the vehicle from the carriageway.

2. Similarly in some instances, repairs to the vehicles which break down on their journey on the National Highway are also attended to on the National Highway in some cases on the carriageway. This is extremely dangerous to the fast moving traffic using the National Highway system. With the help of the State Police authorities the vehicle (which has to be repaired) should be got removed to the shoulders and repairs effected on the shoulders without causing hindrance to the free flow of traffic using the National Highway system, as otherwise the vehicles which has broken down and left on the National Highway without any red light etc. may lead to another accident.

3. I am further to request you kindly, to send your report in the matter to this Ministry after discussing with the concerned state police authorities at an early date.

4. Immediate action is requested.