

No. PL-30 (49)/79

*Dated the 3rd July, 1980*

To

All State Chief Engineers dealing with Roads

Sub : Increased road safety—Problem of accidents on side road junctions

The problem of increasing accidents on roads has been engaging attention of the Government since quite some time. A detailed study of this aspect was made by the Study Group on Road Safety set up by the Ministry which submitted its report in June'72. Recommendations of the Study Group were circulated among all the State Governments and also considered by the Transport Development Council at its 10th meeting held in Feb. '73. Thereafter the matter was discussed by the Standing Committee of the T.D.C. on Road Transport at its 11th meeting held in November, 1973. The consensus of views at these meetings was that the State Governments should take immediate steps to improve safety on roads based on suggestions made by the Study Group, and earmark separate finances for the same if necessary.

2. In pursuance of the objective to improve safety on roads, Ministry has also been pressing the States for creation of separate Traffic Engineering Cells in the P.W.Ds so that there should be a focal agency to analyse

all the traffic and accident data on a continuing basis, enabling identification of the vulnerable accident-prone spots and the remedial measures to be adopted to these. The issue has figured frequently at other forums too, e.g. Annual Sessions of the IRC, Chief Engineers' meetings etc. A short while back the Ministry had agreed to initial financing of these Traffic Cells against CRF (Allocation) Account of the States. Certain States have already taken advantage of this scheme and set up Traffic Cells of their own. The need for such Cells with properly trained staff cannot be overemphasised. It is therefore requested that the State P.W.Ds should give urgent consideration to setting up of Traffic Cells where this has not been done, and having their officers trained in this discipline. Just now the IRC is organising Road Safety Workshops periodically at different places. The literature put out for these Workshops contains very useful guidance about different aspects of road safety. It should be worthwhile for the State P.W.Ds to take advantage of these Workshops, as also other refresher courses being offered in this field by different organisations, by deputing their officers for participation in these.

3. It has come to Ministry's notice that an important reason contributing to accidents, especially on trunk routes such as National Highways, is the preponderance of poorly designed junctions with side roads meeting the main highway at intervals. Common deficiencies at such junctions are absence of appropriate road signs and markings, lack of necessary channelisation etc. In order to remove this cause of accidents, it is requested that the State Govts. may survey all the National Highways and examine the need for improving the more important side road junctions on these with respect to the need for channelisation, road signs, markings etc. Estimates for such improvements, where necessary, may be sent to the Ministry for sanction on priority basis.

4. Chief Engineers of State P.W.Ds are requested to take early action in above regard and inform the Ministry urgently about the present position of setting up Traffic Engineering Cells, as also survey of the side road junctions along National Highways in need of immediate improvement. Action taken on these points may please be intimated to the Ministry latest by 30th August, 1980.