

*No.RW/NH-11052/3/97-DO I*

*Dated, the 31st December, 1997*

To

The Chief Secretaries/Secretaries, (Roads) PWD of all States/UTs, Chief Engineers (dealing with National Highways and other Centrally Sponsored Schemes), Public Works Department of all States and Union Territories, Director General Border Roads, Director General (Works), Central Public Works Department, Chairman, National Highways Authority of India

Subject: Plantation and Maintenance of Shrubs and Flowering Plants in the Medians of Highways

It has been observed that adequate attention is not being paid to plantation on medians of Highways. The essential purpose of planting in medians is to cut off headlight glare from traffic in the opposite direction. Flowering plants and shrubs are eminently suited for the purpose. These could be planted in a variety of ways, but a very effective method is in the form of baffles (shrubs planted across the median at an angle at 15 m interval as shown in Fig. 5 of IRC:SP:21-1979 "Manual on Landscaping of Roads"). This method ensures a penetration of view for the drivers. However, if the median width is less than about 3 m, baffle plantation will not be effective and a continuous line of shrubs should instead be thought of. Shrubs in medians should not exceed 1-1.5 m in height, otherwise visibility of the second carriageway will be affected. Further, in the vicinity of road inter-sections and median opening, no plantation should be done for a length of 10-15 m to ensure adequate visibility. Also no plantation should be done where the median is tapered to provide for a turning lane.

2. It has been decided that henceforth in all National Highway projects being funded through multilateral agencies like World Bank, ADB, OECF etc. or taken up through private sector financing, provision must be made for plantation in the median of Highways.

3. It is requested that the contents of this circular may be brought to the notice of all concerned officers in your department for implementation.

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