

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

Dated, the 21st January, 1999

To

The Chief Secretaries/Secretaries (PWD/Roads) of all State Govts/U.Ts (dealing with Roads); Chief Engineers of States/U.Ts (dealing with National Highways and other Centrally Sponsored Schemes); Director General (Works) Central Public Works Department; Director General Border Roads; 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 the medians should not exceed 1-1.5 m in height, otherwise visibility will be affected. Further, in the vicinity of road intersection and median opening, no plantation should be done for a length of 10 to 15 m to ensure adequate visibility. Also, no plantation should be done where the median is tapered to provide for a turning lane.

2. All the State Governments and other concerned agencies have already been requested vide this Ministry's letter of even number dated 31.12.1997 that henceforth in all National Highway projects being funded through multi-lateral agencies, like, World Bank, ADB, OECF, etc. or taken up through private sector financing, provision must be made for plantation in the medians of Highways.

3. It has now been decided to extend this requirement to all the Highways where four/six-laning is done through normal budget. The plantation on medians could also be arranged through the voluntary bodies/public sector undertakings/reputed private companies through Ministry's policy of Greening of Highways circulated vide letter No. RW/NH-11052/5/95-DO I dated the 26th November, 1996.

4. 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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