

*Dated the 5th February, 1996*

*No.RW/NH-11052/6/95-DO.I*

To

Chief Engineers, Public Works Departments of all States Govts./Union Territories (dealing with National Highways)

Subject: Implementation of stipulated environmental safeguards and conditions for major Highway Projects

As you are aware all major highway projects costing more than Rs.5 crore require clearance by the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MOE&F). Such a clearance is given subject to the implementation of stipulated safeguards and conditions. The project authorities are required to report every six months on the progress of implementation of these conditions/safeguards stipulated to the concerned Regional Officer of MOE&F to monitor the same for effective implementation.

2. It has been brought to the notice of this Ministry that the conditions/safeguards stipulated are not being properly implemented by the project authorities and requisite information/progress reports are also not being sent to the Regional Offices of the MOE&F. This has resulted in issuing notices for stopping the work on the projects in certain cases by the MOE&F. It is, therefore, desirable that the State Chief Engineers/Project Directors who are handling major National Highways projects including those externally aided ones, should ensure that conditions/safeguards stipulated by MOE&F are properly implemented at site and necessary information/progress reports are sent to the concerned Regional Offices of MOE&F as well as Regional Officer of the Ministry. Any difficulties encountered in this regard should be sorted out by discussing the problems at appropriate levels.

3. Necessary instructions in this regard may please be issued to the field officers in your Department under intimation to this Ministry.