

*No.RW/NH-31024/26/93-DO II*

*Dated, the 30th December, 1994*

To

The Secretaries & Chief Engineers (NHs), PWDs of all States and UTs (dealing with NHs); Director General (Works), Central Public Works Department; Secretary, Border Road Development Board

Subject: Follow-up action on the recommendations of the study team constituted by the Institute of Secretariat Training and Management to streamline the procedure for expeditious disposal of Audit paras

I am directed to state that a team of participants of the 45th Advanced Management Services Course of Institute of Secretariat Training and Management (ISTM) conducted a study in the Roads Wing to streamline the procedure for expeditious disposal of Audit Paras. The following recommendations of the study team require action by the executing agencies in respect of National Highway works. You are requested to take necessary action in this regard.

- (i) The executing agencies should ensure that the work is carried out strictly in accordance with the approved specifications. In case the State Govt. changes the specifications etc. without prior approval of this Ministry, they are responsible for any adverse effects and will also bear the additional cost themselves on account of the changed specifications. This has already been intimated to the executing agencies in our Policy Guidelines issued from time to time.
- (ii) It has been observed that many of the projects are not commenced within the stipulated period mentioned in the NH Rule. Delay in commencement of work has, therefore, been one of the causes for Audit Paras. One of the reasons for delay of work in the non-acceptance of tenders by the State Govt. for a long time. The Ministry has issued instructions to the State PWDs that the award of contract/commencement at works should be done maximum within one year from the date of sanction accorded by the Ministry, otherwise the sanction will automatically lapse. These instructions may strictly be complied with.
- (iii) They should watch the position in respect of collection of fees on permanent bridges. In this regard they should send quarterly reports about the collection of fees which may include the progressive amount of fees collected, amount spent on collection and reasons for delay, if any. They should also indicate the capital cost of the bridge including approaches, maintenance cost, interest and the date on which the bridge was opened to traffic etc.
- (iv) As per the existing guidelines of Ministry of Finance, all the AGs are required to furnish half-yearly reports on Audit Paras to the Ministry. The State PWDs should also send half-yearly reports to this Ministry about the pendency of Inspection Reports/Audit Paras so that the position is coordinated with the reports received from AGs.