

No. RW/NH-18011/1/2007-P&M (Pt.)

Dated, the 18th October, 2007**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

Subject : Meeting of the Secretaries (PWD)/Engineers-in-Chief/Chief Engineers (NH), etc. held on 11.9.2007 at New Delhi

The undersigned is directed to refer to the endorsement dated 03.10.2007 on the subject mentioned above and to convey the following decisions taken in the meeting of Secretary (RT&H) with Secretaries of PWD/Engineers in Chief/Chief Engineers of PWDs on 11.09.2007:-

(A) National Highway Works:

1. In the context of removal of deficiencies of the National Highways, requirement of funds for maintenance shall be identified as per norms before the beginning of the financial year and accordingly, the estimates may be prepared. The inter-se priority of these works may be decided according to the traffic level and condition of the National Highways, the process of the identification may be completed before the month of December of the preceding year so that the estimates could be finalised before the start of the current financial year.
2. For the current financial year all the estimates may be technically cleared by the Second Week of October, 2007 by the Project Chief Engineers and if required the Chief Engineers may visit the states concerned and finalise the details in consultation with field officers of the State Government. This exercise shall also include the requirement of maintenance as per the norms.
3. The National Highways which have been included in NHDP Phase III but not yet entrusted to NHAI may be maintained by the State PWDs. The required maintenance activities and LRQP works as per condition of the roads and bridges may be undertaken.

(B) Central Road Fund (CRF) and Economic Importance (EI) & Inter-State Connectivity (ISC) works:

1. From next financial year onwards the works which are to be taken up under the above schemes are identified by a Zonal Committee and the list recommended by the zonal committees be considered and recommended by a committee consists of Secretary (RT&H), the ADGs and CE (Plg. & Mon.). Approval by this Department will be for one time and technical and financial sanctions may be issued by the respective State Governments. The funds will be released only upto the amount administratively approved by this Department. Expenditure over the administratively approved amount required for completion of the work is to be borne by the respective State Governments.
2. The CRF rules provide for various checks during execution and quality control of the works, etc. by the Regional Officers of this Department. The works which have been completed in full or in part before the date of notification of the rules will not be subject to the requirement of these checks by Regional Officers. The previous procedure for reimbursement would be followed.
3. The officers of the Headquarters from the Project Zones concerned would be deputed for assisting the Regional Officer in checking the execution of works for the works to be completed after the date of notification of these rules.
4. For removal of difficulties in implementation of some of the provisions of the CRF rules, it was decided that the CRF rules will be reviewed for necessary amendments for smooth implementation of these works.

(C) General

1. Zonal Committees with Chief Engineers of the Project Zones concerned of this Department and the Chief Engineers of the State concerned are to be set up which will finalise the list of works for National Highways and Central Sector Road works to be taken up and take necessary action for approval.
2. A Committee under the Chairmanship of DG (RD) & SS/ADG with secretaries of the State PWDs representing four regions of the country and three Chief Engineers of the Project Zones of this Department as members and Chief Engineer (Plg. & Mon.) as Member-Secretary will be set up which will regularly meet at least once in a quarter to review the progress of works and the procedural requirement in order to remove the impediments for implementation of National Highways and other Central Sector Road works.
3. Half yearly meetings will be held under the Chairmanship of Secretary (RT&H) with the Secretaries, Chief Engineers of all the State Governments to review the National Highways and other Central Sector Road works.
4. The expenditure upto December of the year shall be 75% of the allocated fund. If this target is not achieved the allocation of the State concerned will be reviewed and the necessary action for re-allocation of the funds will be taken.
5. Weighbridges are to be installed for control of overloading of trucks as per the provisions of the Control of National Highways (Land & Traffic) Act, 2002 for which action has been taken. This Department has taken initiatives for installation of weigh-in-motion equipment at few locations. Necessary preliminary activities for installation of these equipment may be completed by the State PWDs. The installation of such weigh-in-motion equipment in other places can be out sourced for attracting private parties for weighing, offloading and storage of off loaded material. These are to be installed primarily at the locations of toll booths wherever possible.
6. The various check posts set up by the State Governments on National Highways are to be removed. The check posts of all the Departments of the State Governments are to be integrated and one Integrated Check Post is to be set up at the border of the states. One such Integrated Check Post shall be set up at the border of two adjoining states. The permission for setting up of such check posts shall have to be obtained from the Committee consisting of Chief Engineer (NH) and the Transport Commissioner of the states concerned.
7. Best practices followed by the states if any in respect of National Highways and other Central Sector Road works may be circulated among other states for their benefits and application.
8. As per present practice the Chief Engineers of the Project Zones are competent to technically clear the estimates costing upto Rs.5 crore. Considering the escalation in costs etc. and also the amount which is exempt from clearance by EFC the following delegation of power for technical clearance of estimates has been approved:-

Chief Engineers:	Rs. 15 crore
Additional Director General:	Rs. 30 crore
Director General:	Full Power

This is issued with the approval of the Hon'ble Minister (S, RT&H).

All concerned are requested to take necessary follow up action and to send the compliance report.
