

ब्रह्म दत्त
Brahm Dutt

SECRETARY
भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
मार्ग परिवहन, राजमार्ग परिवहन और राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग
MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
(राजमार्ग परिवहन और राजमार्ग विभाग)
DEPARTMENT OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

S.O. No. 12037/39/2009/SIC/SARDP-NE(P)

31st March, 2009

Dear Shri Deb,

The Government has approved improvement of critical locations of NH 31 A to maintain unhindered traffic flow on the highway. Border Roads Organisation has identified 77 locations requiring improvement of priority. Out of the 77 identified locations, 48 locations from Sevoke to Rangpo fall in West Bengal. BRO will take up realignment of the road and cutting of hills to execute the required improvement works. Acquisition of land and forest clearance have to be arranged on priority to enable BRO to start the work at once. The initial 6 km length of NH 31 A from Sevoke to Swati Jhora passes through Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary, where only marginal cutting of hills slopes is involved. However, technically, clearance from wildlife angle would be needed. Since the Government attaches high priority to improving NH 31 A, being lifeline of Sikkim, a special mechanism in the State Government needs to be set up for arranging forest clearance and clearance from wildlife angle as well as for acquiring the land, wherever required. BRO has already submitted the proposals to the concerned Department of the Government of West Bengal in case of some locations and will submit the proposals soon for the remaining locations. I would request you to set up a speedy mechanism for processing the cases of BRO on top priority.

2. The Government has also approved 'in principle' developing an alternate road to Sikkim starting from near Chalsa (Khunia mod) on NH 31 A in West Bengal. The existing road from Khunia mod to Tangla, via Jaldhaka and Thoda has been identified by BRO as part of this proposed alternate road to Gangtok. From Tangla to near about Rachelia (the border between Sikkim and West Bengal) a new alignment is being explored. BRO will be taking up preparation of feasibility report and DPR for a 2-lane highway from Khunia mod to near about Rachelia passing through the territory of West Bengal. To enable BRO undertaking the improvement of existing road from Khunia mod to Tangla, it is necessary that the existing road, which, at present, is under the charge of West Bengal PWD is transferred to Border Roads Organisation. I would request you to consider transferring the Khunia mod to Tangla road to BRO to enable them undertaking preparation of DPR and subsequently take up improvement of the road to 2-lane standards.

I shall be grateful for intimating me the action taken in the matter.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Brahm Dutt)

Shri A.K. Deb,
Chief Secretary,
Government of West Bengal,
Kolkata

Copy to:

1. Chief Secretary, Govt. of Sikkim, Gangtok-737102
2. Director General (Border Roads), Seema Sadak Bhavan, New Delhi
3. Chief Engineer (P) Swastik, C/o 99 APO.