



DO No. NRRDA-P013(11)/1/2020-Dir(P-I) - 371 580

11 April 2023

To,

1. Additional Chief Secretaries/ Principal Secretaries /Secretaries of the nodal department implementing PMGSY and RCPLWE projects in all States/ UTs.
2. Chief Executive Officers of SRRDAs in all States / UTs.
3. Engineer-in Chief / Chief Engineer handling PMGSY and RCPLWEA in all States/UTs

**Sub: Timely cutting of joints and testing of strength in a proper manner in panelled cement concrete pavements under PMGSY.**

As you are aware, a large number of roads are being constructed using Panelled Cement Concrete. During the field visits of quality monitors and NRIDA officials, it has been observed that the joints in panelled cement concrete pavement are not being cut within the stipulated time frame of 24-48 hours, as per design and provisions made in DPR.

2. It has also been observed that in some cases, the joints are cut only for marking on the surface with a depth of only 5-7 mm from top, which is not as per the design depth of joints (*ie 1/3 -1/4 of the depth of concrete slab*). Thus, absence of cutting of joints within stipulated time and inadequate depth of joints leads to cracking of panelled concrete which results in poor performance of the road.


3. Further, it has been reported that in many cases of panelled concrete, the cores of full depth are not being taken for checking their compressive strength after completion of 28 days of curing and payments are being released which is contrary to the provisions of circular dated 27.05.2020 issued by Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) for cement concrete roads. As panelled cement concrete pavements are also concrete pavements, all the provisions indicated in above referred circular, are to be complied in execution of panelled concrete pavements.

4. States are also advised that time-stamped, geo-tagged photographs and time stamped video recording of casting of concrete and also the cutting of joints within stipulated time and upto the required depth, should also be kept as a proof of cutting of joints and these will be verified by NQMs / SQMs during the visits.

5. In view of above, it has been decided that wherever joints in panelled cement concrete are not provided within 24-48 hours with appropriate depth ( $1/3-1/4$  depth of slab), the National Quality Monitors (NQMs) and State Quality Monitors (SQMS) will grade such works as unsatisfactory (U). Also, if the PIU staff fails to provide geo-tagged, time stamped record of cutting of joints in stipulated time, during the visits of monitors, such works shall be graded as 'U' by the monitors.

6. Further States are advised to issue instructions to the concerned officers, indicating that these directions / guidelines for panelled cement concrete pavement construction under PMGSY shall be strictly followed. **It is suggested that these instructions related to cutting and strength testing be communicated to each officer through a dedicated meeting/ workshop, so that CC pavement is constructed with requisite quality.**

Yours sincerely,



11/4/23

(Dr. Ashish Kumar Goel)

Copy to:

1. All the National Quality Monitors (NQMs)
2. State Quality Coordinators of all the States for informing all the State Quality Monitors (SQMs).