

## **Priority RTI Mail**

19 September 2017

Shri Manoj Kumar (Personal Attention)  
Director General Roads  
Ministry of Road Transport and Highways  
Transport Bhawan, 1, Parliament Street  
New Delhi-110 001

### **Subject: Information Sought under 2005 RTI Act Concerning MORTH Circular about Deleting Tack Coat over Primed WMM**

Dear Shri Manoj Kumar:

Please refer to my humble letter dated 20 July 2017 sent to you about 2 months ago (copy below at the end of this letter). I am disappointed that you did not have the courtesy nor the humility to respond to me concerning an important national cause: wasting crores and crores of rupees on unnecessary, wasteful application of tack coat over prime coat. The NHAI has already issued a circular to stop this wasteful practice. Unless MORTH issues a similar circular, this wasteful practice would continue unabatedly on roads and streets other than national highways.

I do not understand as to why despite an army of engineers in MORTH, you cannot issue this simple circular although I have been requesting MORTH persistently for the **last 4 years** or so. Sir, I do not know about you but as a citizen of India, I feel ashamed about the lack of responsibility in MORTH, even under Hon. Modi's leadership.

Therefore, I regret to seek the following information from you under the 2005 Right to Information Act (RTI):

- 1. Please let me know about MORTH's plan to issue the requested circular: within 1 month; within 3 months; within 6 months; within 1 year; within 2 years; or never? [Please do not give a vague response like we have not done any planning.]**
- 2. Please furnish to me a photocopy of my letter dated 20 July 2017 referred above showing the notings on it recorded in your office.**

For your information, I am sharing this RTI letter and plan to share all of your responses to me with over 2000 highway colleagues (government engineers; contractors; consultants; bitumen suppliers, academia; etc. across India) via email. I know most of them are interested.

I look forward to receiving your responses to the two requests made above within 30 days as stipulated in the 2005 RTI Act.

A fee of Rs. 20 has been deposited to cover the RTI application charge and estimated 5 photocopies of the notings on my letter as needed.

Sincerely,

Prof. Prithvi Singh Kandhal  
Karanpura House  
50 Raj Bhawan Road, Civil Lines  
Jaipur 302 006  
[pkandhal@gmail.com](mailto:pkandhal@gmail.com)

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SPEED POST

20 July 2017

Shri Manoj Kumar (Personal Attention)  
Director General Roads  
Ministry of Road Transport and Highways  
Transport Bhawan, 1, Parliament Street  
New Delhi-110 001

**Subject: MORTH Circular about Deleting Tack Coat over Primed WMM**

Dear Shri Manoj Kumar:

First, I would like to congratulate you on your promotion as DG Roads. I am sure you will provide a good leadership.

You must have seen the NHAI circular and my letter to over 2000 highway colleagues across India on the subject. Both are attached for your ready reference.

I am writing to you to please issue a MORTH circular like that of NHAI so that it is implemented on roads other than national highways. It is long overdue. I hope under your leadership it will be done within this month by giving specific timebound instructions to your staff.

In closing, I would like to mention that I am not an adversary rather a friend of MORTH. This would be evident from the following:

- I do not work for any organization. Therefore, I do not have any ulterior motive whatsoever except to assist MORTH by providing unbiased, independent technical input.
- I like to work within the system rather than just criticizing from outside. I have developed many important standards (such as specifications for dense graded bituminous mixes; SMA; readymade pothole patching mix; and VG bitumen) for IRC, BIS, BRO, and

Indian Army during the last 10 years or so.

- I have over 30 years' experience in the US (in government departments) and over 20 years' experience in India (including working as Executive Engineer in Rajasthan PWD) in asphalt road technology. Therefore, earlier DG Roads used to seek my independent, straightforward, practical technical views on asphalt related matters. Later, unfortunately, it became a one-way street due to apparent ego problems. MORTH would not respond to my phone calls or letters. Then, I had to resort to RTI or writing to higher authorities. I did not like it but there was no other recourse.

I am very hopeful that under your leadership this adversarial relationship between MORTH and me (Indian citizen) would stop. The need for interaction between government and citizens has also been stressed by Hon. PM Modi.

Soon, I will be writing to you to reexamine and revise the existing MORTH circular on IRPQ and PR. Please feel free to call me at 94140-54804 whenever you need some technical advice.

I would appreciate it if you would acknowledge the receipt of this letter. Thanks.

Best regards,

Prof. Prithvi Singh Kandhal  
Karanpura House  
50 Raj Bhawan Road, Civil Lines  
Jaipur 302 006  
[pkandhal@gmail.com](mailto:pkandhal@gmail.com)

Two attachments