

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

CE'S CIRCULAR NO. 18 OF 1961.

CASE NO.W/67/13/W-7 P.WAY.

BEARING PLATES.

In certain sections, it has been noticed that bearing plates are not being used on bridge sleepers, with the result that the rails are gradually cutting into the sleepers, particularly where heavy axle loads are used, and the sleepers eventually become unserviceable. The bearing plates, if used between the rails and sleepers, distribute the load from the rail to the sleepers and prevent crushing of the sleepers. They are known to have extended the life of the sleepers by as much as 30%.

As it has also become difficult to procure bridge timber of hard wood species, it is, therefore, absolutely necessary that the life of sleepers should be increased by taking measures conducive to economy. The direction in which one has to look for relief from acute shortage of sleepers is not so much towards the increase in their availability as the measures to be adopted but to get added years of service out of them.

You are, therefore, requested to review the position of bridge timber supply and also the existing condition of sleepers on the bridges. Action should be initiated to provide bearing plates on bridge sleepers gradually, starting with the bridges where complete renewals are taken up and extending to bridges where complete renewal will not be undertaken in the near future depending on the availability of the fund and the bearing plates.

After assessing the requirements, a programme may please be drawn-out and your immediate requirements may be sent to TSO for taking procurement action.