

No. 4(2)/2015-D(Q&C)  
Govt. of India  
Ministry of Defence

New Delhi, Dated the 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2015

To,

1. The Chief of Army Staff,  
Army Headquarters, New Delhi
2. The Chief of Naval Staff,  
Naval Headquarters, New Delhi
3. The Chief of Air Staff,  
Air Headquarters, New Delhi
- ✓ 4. The Directorate General, Defence Estates  
New Delhi

Subject: **Closure of Roads in Cantonments**

Sir,

It has been brought to the notice of the Ministry of Defence that public roads in Cantonments are being closed by the Local Military Authorities without any statutory authority to do so and without following the procedure prescribed in Section 258 of the Cantonments Act, 2006. Under the said section 258, a street, as defined under section 2(zza) of the said Act, can be permanently closed only by a Cantonment Board for security reasons alone, after:

- (c) giving a public notice inviting objections and suggestions from the general public; and
- (d) obtaining prior permission of the GoC-in-C or the Principal Director of the Command.

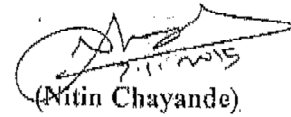
2. The matter has been considered in the Ministry of Defence and it has been decided that no public road, outside Unit Lines, in a Cantonment shall be closed by any authority, other than a Cantonment Board, for any reasons other than security, and without following the procedure laid down under section 258 of the Cantonments Act, 2006. If in the opinion of LMA, any road needs to be closed for security reasons, it will approach the local Cantonment Board to set the process in motion as required under section 258 of the Cantonments Act, 2006.

3. Henceforth, it will be the responsibility of the GoC-in-C and Principal Director Defence Estates of the Command to ensure that no road in a Cantonment, outside Unit Lines, is closed arbitrarily or on grounds other than security or without following the procedure as prescribed under the said section 258. While deciding matters pertaining to closure of roads, the competent authority shall objectively weigh the security considerations and the inconvenience that may be caused to general public. Where it becomes unavoidable to close a road, efforts should be made to provide an alternative road before enforcing the closure order.

4. It has further been decided that roads already closed without following the procedure as delineated in the Cantonments Act, 2006 should be opened forthwith, and closed again, if such closure is required, after following the laid down procedure and obtaining the statutory approval.

5. The DG DE and Services Headquarters shall ensure compliance of the aforesaid directions. They will also submit a compliance report with regard to para 4 above to the Ministry of Defence within 30 days from the issue of this letter.

Yours faithfully



(Nitin Chayande)  
Director (L&C)