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Title: Need to remove the condition of number of habitations for construction of roads under PMGSY in Araku Parliamentary Constituency, Andhra Pradesh-laid.

KUMARI GODDETI MADHAVI (ARAKU): I would like to raise the issue of urgent need for development of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in my Parliamentary Constituency of Araku.

As we all know the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is a one-time special intervention of the Union Government to provide rural connectivity, by way of single all-weather road to the eligible unconnected habitations in the core network. PMGSY is executed through State Governments. The primary objective of the PMGSY is to provide connectivity, by way of an all-weather road to the eligible unconnected Habitations in the rural areas with a population of 500 persons and above in Plain areas and in respect of the Hill States (North-East, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand), the Desert Areas (as identified in the Desert Development Programme), the Tribal (Schedule V) areas and Selected Tribal and Backward Districts, the objective would be to connect eligible unconnected Habitations with a population of 250 persons and above. The Government of India has taken a decision to accelerate execution of all-weather road connectivity to eligible habitations as per the Core Network of PMGSY by March, 2019.

However, in spite of this, there is an urgent need for even removing the limit of 250 persons for the Tribal (Schedule V) areas and Selected Tribal districts as due to this specific factor the most isolated areas are

not able to be connected. Especially in the case of my constituency Araku, the terrain is densely forested and hilly. More often than not precious lives are lost due to inability to reach the hospital or the nearest health centre.

I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Environment Minister also because sometimes there is a huge delay in getting approval for forest clearance for projects especially road and other developmental projects.

I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister to take steps to remove the habitation number guidelines for PMGSY. This will go a long way in helping improving the connectivity, saving precious lives and ultimately help in spurring the rural economy in the State.