

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 724
ANSWERED ON 07/02/2023

SMART VILLAGES

724. SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:
SHRI DHAIRYASHEEL SAMBHAJIRAO MANE:
SHRI SANJAY SADASHIVRAO MANDLIK:
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:
SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV:
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to take any steps for the development of rural villages as Smart Villages on the line of Smart Cities project and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the roadmap envisaged by the Government for the development of villages as Smart Villages;
- (c) the measures taken by the Government to reduce the diametric difference/disparities between rural and urban areas with respect to the availability of basic facilities;
- (d) whether any initiatives have been taken to ensure the socio-economic security of the people in rural areas during the last three years and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has proposed to formulate a policy for smart villages equipped with all modern facilities; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof along with the criteria fixed for selection/identification of villages for the said purpose?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a) & (b) There is no proposal under consideration with the Ministry of Rural Development, at present, on formulation of policy of Smart Villages. However, under Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM), different modern amenities are being created in rural areas through convergence of funds and resources under Centrally Sponsored, Central Sector and States schemes incentivized by dedicated Critical Gap Fund (CGF). Some important modern amenities, created under 21 components of SPMRM in the Rurban Clusters across the country, include creation of smart classroom, Wi-Fi hotspots, Citizen Service Centres, Solid and Liquid Waste Treatment Plants, Solar Water Pumps, Water ATMs, e-Rickshaw, Digital Library, etc.

(c) & (d) Various measures taken by the government to improve access to basic amenities in rural areas, and the initiatives to ensure the socio-economic security of the rural people during the last three years include implementation of several Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored programmes/schemes/mission/campaigns by different ministries viz. Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Power and Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation and other ministries and departments.

Important programmes/schemes/mission/campaigns which are being taken up include, construction of village roads (rural connectivity) under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

(PMGSY), providing assistance for construction of pucca houses (rural housing) under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMA Y-G), providing potable tap water supply to every household under Jal Jeevan Mission, providing access to toilets to all rural households under Swacchh Bharat Mission (Grameen), electrification of villages across the country under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana, providing last mile connectivity and electricity connection to all households in rural areas under Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (SAUBHAGYA), etc. Details of initiatives taken, and achievements made during the last three years are at Annexure 1.

In addition, on 21st February 2016, with a view to bridge the rural-urban gap, through stimulating local economic development, enhancement of basic services and creating well planned *Rurban Clusters*, Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM) was launched by the Government of India. The mission is essentially to develop cluster of villages that preserve and nurture the essence of rural community life with focus on equity and inclusiveness without compromising with the facilities perceived to be essentially urban in nature and creating a cluster of Rurban villages. Details of the Mission and its achievement of the Mission is at Annexure 2.

(e) & (f) There is no proposal under consideration with the Ministry of Rural Development, at present, on formulation of policy for Smart Villages.

A. Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana- Gramin (PMAY-G)

Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G) is being implemented with effect from 1st April, 2016 to provide assistance to eligible rural households for construction of 2.95 crore Pucca houses with basic amenities to achieve the objective of “**Housing for All**”. Under PMAY-G, the beneficiaries are provided unit assistance of Rs.1.20 lakh in plain areas and Rs. 1.30 lakh in difficult areas, IAP districts and Hilly areas for construction of a house. Further, assistance of Rs. 12,000 is being provided for construction of toilet to the beneficiaries through SBM-G, MGNREGS or any other dedicated source of funding. The beneficiaries are also being provided LPG and electricity connection through convergence with schemes of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Ministry of Power. Under PMAY-G, a total of 2.83 crore houses have been sanctioned to the beneficiaries and 2.15 crore houses are complete as on 02.02.2023.

(B) Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY-I) is a one-time special intervention launched by Government of India on 25th December, 2000 for providing connectivity by way of an all-weather road to the eligible unconnected habitations as per core-network with a population of 500 persons in plain areas. In respect of Special Category States (i.e. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, 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 (as identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs and Planning Commission), the objective is to connect eligible unconnected habitations with a population of 250 persons and above (Census 2001). For most intensive Integrated Action Plan (IAP) blocks as identified by Ministry of Home Affairs the unconnected habitations with population 100 and above (as per 2001 Census) is eligible to be covered under PMGSY.

As the programme unfolded, a need was felt for consolidation of the existing Rural Road Network to improve its efficiency not only as a provider of transportation services, but also as a vehicle of social and economic development. Accordingly, in the year 2013, PMGSY-II was launched for upgradation of selected Through Routes and Major Rural Links (MRLs) with a target to upgrade 50,000 Km in various states and Union Territories.

Subsequently, in 2016, Road Connectivity Project for Left Wing Extremism Affected Areas (RCPLWEA) for construction/upgradation of strategically important roads was launched as a separate vertical under PMGSY.

Union Government had approved the PMGSY III programme in 2019, which mainly focuses on the consolidation of existing Through routes and Major Rural Links that connect habitations to Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs), Higher Secondary Schools and Hospitals.

Since inception till 2nd February 2023, 8,04,316 km road length with value of projects of Rs. 3,62,314 Crore has been sanctioned and 7,25,579 km road length has been constructed at an expenditure of Rs. 2,93,683 Crore (including state share). Moreover, since inception, till 02.02.2023, 1,57,282 habitations in population category 250+ have been sanctioned for providing connectivity against which, 1,56,387 habitations have been provided connectivity. In the population category 100-249, 6,253 habitations have been sanctioned against which 6,011 habitations have been provided connectivity, exclusive of habitations that have already been connected by the State Govts. from their own programmes.

Physical achievements and the details of fund release and expenditure under PMGSY incurred during last three years and the current year are as follows:

Physical achievements of PMGSY during the last three years and the current year as on 2nd February 2023-

Year	Sanctioned Length (km)	Completed Length (km)
2019-20	27,676.236	27,304.586
2020-21	44,172.211	36,674.484
2021-22	28,148.72	41,973.78
2022-23 (as on 02.02.2023)	16,505.96	20,895.99

Financial achievements of PMGSY during the last three years and the current year as on 2nd February -

Year	Release (Rs. in crore)	Expenditure including state share (Rs. in crore)
2019-20	13995.87	21723.92
2020-21	13651.46	23935.01
2021-22	13,952.99	27,833.71
2022-23 (as on 02.02.2023)	13,927.86	18,458.80

(C) Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) –

Since August 2019, aiming at universal coverage and to enable every rural household of the country, including those in scheduled castes and scheduled tribes dominated areas, to have provision of potable tap water supply by 2024, Government of India in partnership with States, is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) after subsuming erstwhile National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), with an estimated outlay of Rs.3.60 lakh crore.

Moreover, under the Mission, Gram Panchayat and / or its sub-committee/ user group, i.e., Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC)/ PaniSamiti, has been empowered for creation of water supply infrastructure and subsequent operation and maintenance of in-village water supply system and accordingly there is a huge requirement of skilled human resources in rural areas, viz. masons, plumbers, fitters, electricians, motor mechanics, pump operators etc., for which skilling of people living in villages is also being promoted under the Mission.

As on 2nd February 2023, out of total of 19.36 Crore, 11.07 Crore (57.16%) rural households are provided with tap water supply. Thus 7.83 Crore more households are getting tap water supply from 3.23 Crore (16.7 %) households as on 15th August 2019.

(D) Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) [SBM(G)] –

Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) [SBM(G)] with effect from 2nd October 2014 with the main aim to make the rural areas of the country Open Defecation Free (ODF) by 2nd October, 2019, by providing access to toilets to all the rural households. As sanitation is a State subject the programme has been implemented by the State Governments. Government of India provides technical and financial support to supplement the efforts of the State Governments. As reported by the States/UTs on the online Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of SBM(G), more than 10.8 crore individual household latrines (IHHLs) have been constructed since 2nd October, 2014 so far. All the villages declared themselves ODF by 2nd October, 2019. Having achieved the outcomes of the ODF, Phase II of SBM (G) is now being implemented with the goal to convert all the villages from ODF to ODF Plus by 2024-25, i.e. to sustain their ODF status and to make arrangements for solid and liquid waste management.

(E) DeenDayalUpadhyaya Gram JyotiYojana (DDUGJY) –

Government of India launched DeenDayalUpadhyaya Gram JyotiYojana (DDUGJY) in December, 2014 for various rural electrification works including separation of agriculture and non-agriculture feeders, strengthening and augmentation of sub-transmission & distribution infrastructure, metering of distribution transformers/feeders/consumers and electrification of villages across the country. Under DDUGJY, all States had declared electrification of all Villages on 28th April, 2018. Works under the scheme have been completed and the scheme stands closed on 31.03.2022.

(F) Pradhan MantriSahajBijliHarGharYojana (Saubhagya) –

The Government of India launched Pradhan MantriSahajBijliHarGharYojana – Saubhagya in October, 2017 with the objective of achieving universal household electrification, by providing electricity connections to all unelectrified households in rural areas and all poor households in urban areas in the country. Under the aegis of Saubhagya, as on 31.03.2019, all households were reported electrified by the States, except 18,734 households in Left Wing Extremists (LWE) affected areas of Chhattisgarh. Subsequently, seven States namely Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Manipur, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh had reported that around 19.09 lakh un-electrified households, identified before 31.03.2019, which were unwilling earlier but later expressed willingness to get electricity connection. This was also sanctioned. All these seven States had reported 100% households' electrification as on 31.03.2021. A total of 2.817 crore households were electrified since the launch of Saubhagya, up to 31.03.2021. Thereafter, some States reported 11.84 lakh households remained to be electrified, against which States reported that 4.43 lakh households have been electrified. A total of 2.86 crore households were electrified under the aegis of Saubhagya including additional households in two tranches that were unwilling for electrification earlier but became willing later. The scheme stands closed as on 31.03.2022.

Shyama Prasad MukherjiRurban Mission

Shyama Prasad MukherjiRurban Mission (SPMRM) was launched in February 21st, 2016 to deliver catalytic interventions to rural areas on the threshold of growth. It is an attempt to make the selected rural and tribal areas socially, economically and physically sustainable regions and strives to strengthen by providing economic, social, basic and digital amenities, thus leading to sustainable and balanced regional development in the country. 300 Rurban Clusters with thematic economic growth points are being developed across the country under this innovative Mission.

The Mission focuses on holistic development of clusters and to ensure an optimum level of development, twenty-one desirable components which are as under:

1. Piped Water Supply
2. Sanitation
3. Solid & Liquid waste management
4. Accesst of village streets with Drains
5. Village street lights & electrification.
6. Inter village roads connectivity
7. Public transport
8. LPG Gas connection
9. Skill development training linked to economic activities
10. Agri-service processing & allied activities
11. Education
12. Health
13. Digital Literacy
14. Citizen service Centres
15. Environment
16. Employment Generation & SHG Formation
17. Tourism Promotion
18. Sports Infrastructure
19. Social Infrastructure
20. Rural Housing
21. Social Welfare

The physical and financial progress made under SPMRM during the last three is as under:

Physical progress (Cumulative):

	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23 (as on 2 nd February 2023)
Works completed	16040	18311	4710

Financial progress (Cumulative):

(Rupees in crore)

	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23 (as on 2 nd February 2023)
CGF Expenditure	605.21	739.45	653.91
Convergence Expenditure	2809.17	2961.29	779.75
Total Expenditure	3414.38	3700.74	1,433.66
