

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 306
ANSWERED ON 17/12/2024**

RURAL CONNECTIVITY IN NORTH EASTERN REGION

***306. SHRI RAJU BISTA:**

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the manner in which the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY-III) is expected to enhance rural connectivity in the North-Eastern region, particularly in West Bengal, and the progress achieved so far under the said scheme;**
- (b) the details of number of roads in kilometers sanctioned for Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Uttar Dinajpur;**
- (c) the anticipated impact of these infrastructural developments on improving access to essential services like healthcare, education and markets in remote rural areas; and**
- (d) the specific ways in which improved connectivity through PMGSY-III projects is expected to foster economic growth, trade, and employment opportunities in the North-Eastern region, supporting the Government's vision of a prosperous Northeast and a developed India (Viksit Bharat)?**

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN)**

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF PARTS (A) TO (D) OF LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *306 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 17.12.2024.**

(a): The Government of India has approved Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III (PMGSY-III) in July, 2019, for consolidation of 1,25,000 Km rural road network by upgradation of "Through Routes" and "Major Rural Links" connecting habitations, inter-alia, to Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs), Higher Secondary Schools and Hospitals. As of 12th December, 2024, the details of road length sanctioned and completed under PMGSY-III, in North-Eastern States and West Bengal are given at Annexure-I.

(b): As of 12th December, 2024, the details of road length sanctioned in Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Uttar Dinajpur Districts of West Bengal under PMGSY-III are given at Annexure-II.

(c) & (d): The Government of India, as a part of the poverty reduction strategy, launched the PMGSY in the year 2000 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with an aim to provide rural connectivity, by way of a single all-weather road, to the eligible unconnected habitations of population size 500+ in plain areas and 250+ in North-Eastern States, Himalayan States and Himalayan Union Territories and some special areas. Since inception, a total length of 8,34,657 km worth Rs 3,95,660 crore has been sanctioned under various verticals of PMGSY, out of which a length of 7,69,773 km which includes 1,81,194 roads and 9,212 bridges have been constructed as on date and connectivity has been provided to 99.6% of the targeted habitations.

Various independent evaluation studies on PMGSY by NITI Aayog, World Bank etc. have concluded that it has improved access to education and health care facilities, facilitated employment generation in both farm and non-farm sectors, helped farmers in getting better farm prices, etc through which there has been a rapid socio-economic transformation in rural areas. It has provided a long-term and sustained boost in the living standards of rural population.

The improved rural road network, in particular under PMGSY-III in North-Eastern Region, will enable faster access to healthcare facilities, improve school accessibility, and reduce dropout rates, while also strengthening rural economies by facilitating easier transport of goods to markets. Furthermore, the enhanced connectivity will foster economic growth, trade, and employment. By providing better connectivity to remote areas it will boost trade, generate employment opportunities through construction and maintenance jobs, and support promotion of tourism, especially in scenic regions like Darjeeling and Kalimpong. These developments align with the Government's vision of creating a prosperous Northeast and a developed India, contributing to the broader goal of a "Viksit Bharat."

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.*306 to be answered on 17.12.2024

Details of road length sanctioned and completed under PMGSY-III, in North-Eastern States viz Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura and West Bengal as on 12th December, 2024

S. No	State Name	Sanctioned			Completed		
		No of roads	Length (in km)	No of bridges	No of roads	Length (in km)	No of bridges
1	Arunachal Pradesh	170	1,366	66	8	125	3
2	Assam	654	4,247	69	472	3,386	13
3	Manipur	56	502	0	0	0	0
4	Meghalaya	143	1,225	55	8	94	0
5	Mizoram	17	488	0	0	0	0
6	Nagaland	45	563	0	0	0	0
7	Sikkim	45	286	20	0	15	0
8	Tripura	100	781	6	2	52	0
9	West Bengal	562	4,237	6	54	620	0
Total		1,792	13,695	222	544	4,292	16

Annexure-II

Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.*306 to be answered on 17.12.2024

Details of road length sanctioned in Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Uttar Dinajpur Districts of West Bengal under PMGSY-III as on 12th December, 2024

S. No	Name of District	Sanctioned	
		No of roads	Length (in km)
1	Darjeeling	14	109
2	Kalimpong	9	66
3	Uttar Dinajpur	22	159
Total		45	334
