

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1663
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2010
RELAXATION IN POPULATION NORMS UNDER PMGSY
Sushant Dr. Rajan

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to relax the norms of population under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) for the hilly States particularly Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand in view of their difficult geographical conditions;
- (b) whether any special relaxations alongwith the said exemption in respect of population are also proposed in respect of other conditions viz. snow fall, heavy rains etc.; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN `ADITYA`)

(a) Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), all habitations with population of 500 persons and more are eligible for providing all weather road connectivity. For Hill States (North-East, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand) the eligibility criteria has been relaxed and all habitations with population of 250 persons and above are eligible under the scheme.

(b)&(c) No sir, no special relaxation is proposed in respect of these areas. The existing PMGSY guidelines has already provided some special relaxation in respect of hill States due to difficult condition prevailing in these areas. Some of these are as follows:

(i) the road works can be executed in two stages. The time period for completion of road indicated in the guideline is applicable for each stage in these areas,

(ii) paragraph 3.4 of Guidelines has been amended to treat a cluster of all habitations within a path distance of 10 Km as single habitation for determining the eligibility as per population in blocks bordering international boundary in the hill states (as identified by Ministry of Home Affairs),. The earlier limit for cluster in those areas was 1.5 km.

(iii) Geometries design standards of Rural Roads is governed by Rural Roads Manual IRC SP-20-2002. However, the Government has decided to relax the geometric norms taken up under PMGSY, as per the recommendations of the Expert Committee constituted to review Standards, Specifications and Design of Rural Roads for achieving economy in the cost of construction under PMGSY.