

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3459
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2010
CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS UNDER PMGSY
Agarwal Shri Rajendra

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the norms/guidelines regarding the thickness and width of the roads being constructed in various parts of the country under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) have not been followed by the contractors;
- (b) if so, the corrective measures taken by the Government to ensure the compliance of prescribed norms by the contractors for providing quality roads in the villages;
- (c) whether any mechanism is available to monitor and investigate the quality of the roads which are constructed under PMGSY;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a): As per the programme guidelines, rural roads constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) shall meet technical specifications and geometric design standards given in Rural Road Manual and Hill Road Manual of Indian Roads Congress. Whenever any complaints about roads not being constructed as per standards are received or in routine inspections, it emerges that roads are not being constructed as per set standards, appropriate action for rectification/ removal of works, which is not as per standards, is taken by the State Governments who are implementing agencies under PMGSY. In addition, under the third tier of the quality control mechanism, the National Quality Monitors are deployed for inspection, at random in the States. The observations of the NQMs including that of violation of norms/ guidelines regarding thickness and width of the roads are sent to the respective State Governments for compliance. As per the provisions, the States are required to take action on observations of National Quality Monitors and furnish Action Taken Reports to National Rural Roads Development Agency.

(b): Yes, Sir.

(c): Ensuring the quality of the road works is the responsibility of the State Governments who are implementing the programme. A Three Tier Quality Mechanism has been put in place for ensuring the quality of road works under the programme. First Tier is in-house quality control and second tier is independent monitoring at State level. These two tiers are the responsibility of the States implementing the programme. The Third tier is envisaged as an independent monitoring mechanism at the central level. Under this tier, the independent National Quality Monitors (NQMs) are engaged for inspections of roads, selected at random. The NQMs carry out inspections on the basis of guidelines and they are required to make observations about the quality of works in an objective manner, after performing the required laboratory tests, hand field tests or visual observations, as the case may be. Immediately after the visit of NQM is over, the inspection report is handed over to Project Implementation Unit (PIU). If quality of any work is graded as 'Unsatisfactory', the PIU shall ensure that the contractor replaces the material or rectifies the workmanship (as the case may be) within the time period stipulated. The PIUs are also required to furnish Action Taken Reports in such cases. Close monitoring of submission of Action Taken Report is carried out and States are required to take appropriate action in such cases.

(d) & (e): Do not arise.