

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2695  
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2015  
IRREGULARITIES IN PMGSY ROADS  
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**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) the system formulated to check the quality of roads constructed with regard to stopping irregularities, check maintenance of roads and to address the complaints in the Country under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) designates to enhance the road network in the country;
- (b) the arrangements made to dispose of the complaints relating to maintenance of roads in a time-bound manner;
- (c) whether any action plan has been formulated to enhance the road network on a priority basis in the difficult Himalayan regions;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a) to (b) 'Rural Roads' is a State subject and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is a one-time special intervention to provide rural connectivity, by way of a single all-weather road, to the eligible unconnected habitations in the core network. As per PMGSY guidelines works under PMGSY are executed through the State Governments.

PMGSY roads are constructed by the State Governments with a design life for at least 10 years. As per PMGSY guidelines, maintenance of roads constructed under the programme is the responsibility of the State Governments and all road works are covered by initial five year maintenance contracts to be entered into along with the construction contract, with the same contractor, as per the Standard Bidding Document. Maintenance funds to service the contract are required to be budgeted by the State Governments and placed at the disposal of the State Rural Roads Development Agencies (SRRDAs) in a separate maintenance account. On expiry of this 5 year post construction maintenance, PMGSY roads are required to be placed under Zonal maintenance contracts consisting of 5 year maintenance including renewal as per cycle, from time to time. Regional Review Meetings (RRMs) are conducted with the nodal departments of the state governments, at regular intervals as a measure to monitor the progress & for effective implementation of PMGSY scheme in the States. Also, Area Officer visits are organized by the Ministry for physical inspection and verification of all the programmes run by Department of Rural Development including PMGSY.

PMGSY envisages a three tier Quality Assurance Mechanism to ensure quality of road works during construction. First-tier of this mechanism is in-house quality control at Programme Implementation Unit (PIU) level. Second-tier is structured as an independent quality monitoring at State level through State Quality Monitors (SQMs) in which provision of regular inspection of PMGSY works has been envisaged. The third-tier is an independent monitoring mechanism at the Central level. Under this tier, independent National Quality Monitors (NQMs) are engaged for inspections of PMGSY roads, selected at random. Complaints about various issues related to implementation of PMGSY works including maintenance of roads are received in the Ministry from time to time. Such complaints matter are to the State Quality Coordinators of respective States for taking necessary action as ensuring the quality of construction of PMGSY roads is the responsibility of implementing State Governments. In case, an adequate response is not received within the stated time schedule, the National Rural Roads Development Agency (NRRDA) deputes National Quality Monitors (NQM) and further decisions are taken on the basis of NQM reports.

(c) to (e) No Madam. No specific action plan has been formulated to enhance the road network on a priority basis in the difficult Himalayan regions. Though, as per PMGSY guidelines, special relaxation has been given to 'Special Category States' including the hill States of Himalayan region to connect eligible unconnected Habitations with a population of 250 persons and above as per Census 2001. Also, the hill States have been allowed to execute PMGSY works in two Stages with a time limit of up to 18 calendar months (extendable upto 24 months) for completion of road works in hill states.