

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4961
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2015
CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS UNDER PMGSY
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that sub-standard material is being used in construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in Jharkhand amounting to large scale corruptions;
- (b) if so, whether the work under PMGSY in the said State is being done by the private companies;
- (c) if so, whether the Government is contemplating sending any inspection team for testing the quality of material being used in construction of roads in Jharkhand and get the said work done at departmental level; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and 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. projects under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) are executed by State / Union Territory Governments through their designated agencies i.e. State Rural Roads Development Agencies (SRRDAs) or Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) appointed for this purpose, by States with the consent of Government of India. The works are executed by contractors selected by SRRDAs through competitive e- tender bidding. Some complaints about use of sub-standard materials in construction of roads under PMGSY are received from time to time from various States including that of Jharkhand in the Ministry. Such complaints are promptly inquired into by the National Rural Roads Development Agency (NRRDA).

(c) to (d): For monitoring and quality control, a three tier quality control mechanism has been put in place under PMGSY. 1st tier is in-house quality control. 2nd tier is independent monitoring of construction quality by quality monitors called State Quality Monitors (SQM) managed by the respective State headquarters. The 3rd tier is envisaged as an independent quality monitoring mechanism at the Central level. Under this tier, the independent National Quality Monitors (NQMs) are engaged for inspections of roads, selected at random.

National Quality Monitors are managed and assigned inspections by NRRDA, an arm of Ministry of Rural Development. For works graded as 'Satisfactory Requiring Improvement' (SRI) and 'Unsatisfactory' (U) on the basis of observations of the National Quality Monitors, the States are asked to submit "online" Action Taken Reports (ATR) and these ATRs are processed by NRRDA also online.

Out of the works undertaken in Jharkhand since November 2010, 632 inspections have been conducted by NQMs and shortcomings were found in 353 reports. Out of these, shortcomings have been removed by the State government in 180 cases.