

Government of India
Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 174

To be answered on
Thursday, December 8, 2022/ 17 Agrahayana, 1944 (Saka)

QUESTION
Villages in Meghalaya without access to roads and markets

174. Shri Rakesh Sinha :

Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that there are very small villages spread across the State of Meghalaya and they are inhabited by few hundreds of people;
- (b) if so, the number of villages which are not yet connected with roads and therefore people have to walk miles to come to towns;
- (c) the number of villages in the State not connected with markets and therefore villagers are deprived from gaining the advantages of the goods market; and
- (d) steps being taken to remove these hurdles and facilitate the tribal people spread over these villages?

ANSWER

The Minister of Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region

[Shri G. Kishan Reddy]

(a) to (d) The Ministry of Rural Development launched Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) as a one-time special intervention to provide rural connectivity, by way of a single all-weather road, to the eligible unconnected habitations of designated population size (250 & above, in case of North Eastern States as per 2001 Census) in the core network for uplifting the socio-economic condition of the rural population. The mandate of PMGSY has been subsequently widened to include new interventions. PMGSY-II was launched in the year 2013, with a target to upgrade 50,000 Km of

the existing rural roads. PMGSY-III was launched in 2019 for consolidation of 1,25,000 Kms through Routes and Major Rural Links connecting habitations, inter-alia, to Gramin Agricultural Markets, Higher Secondary Schools and Hospitals. As per PMGSY guidelines, Rural Roads is a State subject and State Government is the nodal implementing agency in the State. Also, the unit for this programme is habitation, meaning a cluster of population, living in an area, the location of which does not change over time. **In the state of Meghalaya, 481 habitations have already been connected out of the 602 habitations sanctioned for connectivity under PMGSY.**

MDoNER supplements the efforts of the State Government and line Ministries of Central Govt. to provide connectivity in North Eastern Region (NER) including providing road accessibility to remote areas which helps facilitate the tribal people residing in small and remote villages.

Total length of roads sanctioned under the main Schemes of MDoNER namely - North East Road Sector Development Scheme (NERSDS) and North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS) implemented either directly or through North Eastern Council (NEC), during the last 3 years in the State of Meghalaya is **169.51 Kms.**

Further, Department of Border Management, Ministry of Home Affairs has also undertaken 992 projects in NER, including Meghalaya, under “Road & Bridges” sector, from 2014-15 onwards.
