

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2358  
ANSWERED ON 09.08.2023

**COMPROMISING WITH STANDARD IN PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK  
YOJANA**

2358 SHRI MITHLESH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has a policy to ban private companies offering 'abnormally low bids' for construction of roads, delay in execution of projects after their awarding and to prevent any compromise on quality of work for construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), if so, details thereof;
- (b) whether there is any other mechanism to prevent such cases as blacklisting the contractor is not a proper solution for problem and if so, details thereof; and
- (c) the number of districts of Uttar Pradesh where such cases have been registered along with number of such cases and present status thereof?

**ANSWER**  
**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT**  
**(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)**

(a) & (b): Rural Road is a State subject and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is a one-time special intervention of Central Government to improve the Rural Infrastructure through construction of roads for providing connectivity to eligible habitations. The rural roads under PMGSY are constructed, maintained and owned by the respective State Governments. As such, the responsibility to ensure various aspects of implementation of the programme viz. quality, timely completion of these roads etc. lies with the State Governments.

In order to bring uniformity in award of works sanctioned under PMGSY, National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency, a technical arm of the Ministry has developed Standard Bidding Document (SBD). States are required to follow the various provisions of SBD in the matter of award of works sanctioned under PMGSY. To address the issue arising out of bidders quoting Abnormally Low Bids (ALBs), provisions of taking the additional performance security from the contractor have been made in the SBD. All the states have been advised to deal with cases of ALBs as per SBD provisions.

Besides a three-tiered Quality Control mechanism is in place under PMGSY for ensuring construction of quality road works and durability of road assets under PMGSY including the works undertaken by sub-contractors. Under the first tier, the Programme Implementation

Units (PIUs) are required to ensure process control through mandatory tests on material and workmanship at the field laboratory. The second tier is a structured independent quality monitoring at the State level through State Quality Monitors (SQMs) to ensure that every work is inspected at initial stage, intermediate stage and final stage of the construction. Under the third tier, which is at the national level, independent National Quality Monitors (NQMs) are deployed for random inspection of road works to monitor quality and also to provide guidance of senior professionals to the field functionaries. Based on the periodic monitoring of quality of roads under the 3-tier mechanism, corrective measures, wherever necessary, are taken by the State Governments.

States have also been asked to make provision for additional inspections by State Quality Monitors on the PMGSY works which have been quoted at 15% or below price. NQM inspections are also being conducted on such works by NRIDA on a random basis.

(c): The award of works sanctioned by the Ministry under PMGSY is done by the State Government and blacklisting of contractors for any lapse in implementation of the programme is also done by the respective State Government. No centralized data is maintained in this regard by the Ministry. As informed by the state of Uttar Pradesh, in case of default to the contract agreement/ inordinate delay in construction, the contractors are debarred or blacklisted by the administrative department of the District PIU.

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