

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 284
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20/12/2024

INVESTMENT IN RURAL ROADS TO WAGE WAR AGAINST RURAL POVERTY

*284 SMT. SUNETRA AJIT PAWAR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether investment in rural roads plays vital role in waging war against rural poverty;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether rural road planning needs to be strengthened and modified according to current needs;
- (d) whether there is a proposal to build rural roads stretching 62,500 km by 2029;
- (e) if so, the details of rural roads to be built in Maharashtra, district-wise;
- (f) the details of roads constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in Maharashtra during last three years and share of Government of Maharashtra; and
- (g) the steps taken by Government to improve infrastructure and connectivity in rural areas, particularly in Maharashtra?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN)

(a) to (g): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (G) OF RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *284 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 20.12.2024.**

(a) to (g): Pradhan Mantri gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is a one-time special intervention of Government of India to provide rural connectivity, by way of a single all-weather road, to the eligible unconnected habitations in the core network. It was launched in the year 2000 as a poverty alleviation measure in rural areas by ensuring access of rural population to basic services through good quality roads. The programme covered unconnected habitations with a population of 500+ in the plain areas and 250+ in the hilly and North Eastern States, desert areas and identified backward districts, as per Census 2001. Later on the programme was extended to habitations having population of 100 or more in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected blocks.

PMGSY-II was launched in May, 2013 and envisages consolidation of the existing Rural Road Network to improve its overall efficiency as a provider of transportation services for people, goods and services.

Road Connectivity Project for Left Wing Extremism Affected Areas (RCPLWEA) was launched in the year 2016 with an aim to improve the road connectivity in 44 worst affected LWE districts and some adjoining districts in 9 States, viz. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh. The scheme has twin objectives of enabling smooth and seamless anti-LWE operations by the security forces and also ensuring socio-economic development of the area.

The Government approved PMGSY-III in July, 2019 for consolidation of 1,25,000 Km Through Routes and Major Rural Links connecting habitations, inter-alia to Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs), Higher Secondary Schools and Hospitals.

Recently, Government of India has approved phase IV of PMGSY in September 2024 to provide all-weather connectivity to 25,000 unconnected habitations of population size 500+ in plains, 250+ in NE & Hill States/UTs, special category areas (Tribal Schedule V, Aspirational Districts/Blocks, Desert areas) and 100+ in LWE affected districts, as per Census 2011. The timeline for completion of PMGSY-IV is March 2029. The survey for eligible unconnected habitations is being carried out by the States with the use of Gram Sadak Survey App. The Ministry is coordinating closely with the State Governments and providing the required assistance.

During last three years, the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana has led to significant infrastructure development in Maharashtra. In Maharashtra, 332 roads spanning 2902 km and 113 Long Span Bridges (LSBs) have been constructed.
