

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1580
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01/08/2025

PROJECTS UNDER PMGSY IN UTTARAKHAND

1580 Dr. Kalpana Saini:

Will the Minister of Rural Development be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of projects approved so far under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III (PMGSY-III) in the State of Uttarakhand, and the length of rural roads, in kilometers, proposed to be constructed/upgraded through the projects;
- (b) the manner in which these projects would strengthen access to education, primary health care and markets for agricultural produce in the remote hilly rural areas of the State; and
- (c) whether the enhanced rural connectivity under the said scheme in Uttarakhand would boost tourism, livelihood and local business, if so, the details of its potential benefits?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI KAMLESH PASWAN)

(a) to (c): The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III (PMGSY-III) was launched in the year 2019 for the consolidation of the existing Rural Road Network by upgradation of 1,25,000 kms of existing Through Routes and Major Rural Links in the Country that connect habitations inter alia to Gramin Agricultural Markets, Higher Secondary Schools and Hospitals. As on 28th July, 2025, a total of 212 roads of 2287.95 km length, and 9 bridges have been sanctioned under PMGSY-III to the State of Uttarakhand, out of which 64 roads of 1378.79 km length have already been constructed by the State. The remaining 148 roads of 905 km length and all 9 bridges are currently at various stages of execution. The timeline for completion of all PMGSY-III works is March 2026.

PMGSY III roads are expected to lead to improved school enrolments, better delivery of health facilities and give a boost to employment in both farm and non-farm sectors. According to a comprehensive World Bank impact evaluation (2019) of PMGSY across several Indian states, improved rural roads led to:

- 10% increase in school enrollment for girls,
- 7% rise in visits to health facilities,
- and a 15% increase in the proportion of households engaged in non-agricultural employment.

The enhanced rural connectivity under PMGSY-III is expected to significantly boost tourism, livelihoods, and local businesses in the hilly and remote regions of Uttarakhand. This expectation is supported by findings from several impact assessments of the PMGSY programme conducted in the past. These findings suggest that improved connectivity enhances access to essential services and diversifies income opportunities. In the context of Uttarakhand, which has a rich potential for eco-tourism and agri-based livelihoods, the 2,287.95 km of sanctioned road length under PMGSY-III will help unlock these opportunities by improving last-mile connectivity to scenic locations, local markets, and tourism clusters. It is also expected to generate employment during the construction phase and support rural enterprises such as homestays, local transport, and food services.
