

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1584
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01/08/2025

LACK OF COORDINATION WITH PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS

1584 Shri Imran Pratapgarhi:

Will the Minister of Rural Development be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware that key schemes like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana–Gramin (PMAY-G), and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) are poorly integrated with Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs);
- (b) whether Gram Sabhas are being sidelined in planning and beneficiary selection, if decisions are being centralised at the district or State level, undermining the role of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs); and
- (c) if so, the steps that are being taken to strengthen decentralised governance and ensure the effective participation of Panchayats in rural development planning and implementation?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Ministry of Rural Development accords due importance to Gram Panchayats while implementing its key schemes/programmes. So far as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is concerned, Section 16(1) of the Act envisages that the Gram Panchayat shall be responsible for identification of the projects in the Gram Panchayat area to be taken up under a Scheme as per the recommendations of the Gram Sabha and the Ward Sabha, and for executing and supervising such works. Similarly, para 7 of Schedule I of MGNREGA envisages that there shall be a systematic, participatory planning exercise at each tier of Panchayat, conducted between August to December month of every year, as per a detailed methodology laid down by the State Government. All works to be executed by the Gram Panchayats shall be identified and placed before the Gram Sabha, and such works which are to be executed by the intermediate or District Panchayats, along with the expected outcomes.

Further, to generate awareness about the provisions of the Scheme, all States/UTs carry out appropriate Information Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns including wall paintings for wide dissemination of the provisions of the Act, expand scope and coverage of demand registration system to ensure that demand for work under MGNREGA does not go unregistered, prepare plans in a participatory mode and approve them in the Gram Sabha and ensure Organization of 'RozgarDiwas'. Also, the Annual Master Circular 6.1.5 envisages that "The Gram Panchayat should also synchronize the shelf of projects with Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) so that all MGNREGA works are necessarily part of the GPDP."

Similarly, one of the key features of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G) is the objective and transparent selection of beneficiaries using housing deprivation parameters from Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011 data, verified by Gram Sabhas. For households that have migrated or are untraceable during Permanent Waiting List (PWL) preparation, States/UTs conduct Gram Sabhas for reverification. Such cases are re-prioritized to the end of the PWL, with the resolution uploaded on AwaasSoft for necessary updates. Separate priority lists for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and others are system-generated for each Gram Panchayat or lowest local self-government unit based on SECC data and available in AwaasSoft. These lists are circulated for verification by the Gram Sabha. During the Gram Sabha meeting, households are verified for eligibility. If a household is found ineligible due to incorrect information, having a pucca house, receiving housing under another scheme, permanent migration, or no surviving member, their name is deleted. Reasons for deletions are recorded in the Gram Sabha minutes. Further, beneficiary selection for the upcoming year and social audit of the previous year's implementation is done in the same Gram Sabha.

Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), a structured institutional mechanism has been established to ensure bottom-up planning and community participation in the selection and implementation of rural road works. States prepare a Comprehensive New Connectivity Priority List (CNCPL)/ Comprehensive Up-gradation cum Consolidation Priority List (CUCPL) at Block and District levels, which is subsequently placed before the District Panchayat for approval, giving due consideration to views and suggestions of lower-tier Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), including Gram Panchayats and Intermediate Panchayats.

There are provisions in PMGSY guidelines that involve Gram Panchayat-level functionaries for smooth functioning of the scheme. For example, during preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), Project Implementation Units (PIUs) conduct transect walks along road alignments in consultation with Gram Panchayats and local residents. This engagement facilitates suitable alignment selection, addresses land availability issues (including forest land, if any), and incorporates environmental safeguards such as tree plantations, while fostering community ownership and mitigating social impacts. State Governments are required to arrange joint inspections of ongoing as well as completed works under PMGSY by Hon'ble MPs, Hon'ble MLAs, and representatives of PRIs.
