

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2388
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08/08/2025

ENHANCED RURAL CONNECTIVITY UNDER PMGSY-III

2388 Shri Ajit Kumar Bhuyan:

Will the Minister of Rural Development be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of infrastructure projects recently sanctioned under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III (PMGSY-III) to improve rural connectivity in the State of Assam;
- (b) in what manner these infrastructure projects are expected to enhance access to education, healthcare and markets in remote regions;
- (c) whether these projects are being implemented with eco-sensitive practices suited for mountainous regions, thereby ensuring sustainable development;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the enhanced connectivity under PMGSY-III is likely to boost trade, commerce and inter-state movement in the North Eastern region; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a): The details of roads and bridges sanctioned under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III (PMGSY-III) in the State of Assam are as below:

No. of roads sanctioned	Road length sanctioned (in Km)	No of bridges sanctioned
654	4,247	69

(b): PMGSY-III aims to consolidate the existing rural road network by upgradation of existing Through Routes and Major Rural Links that connect habitations to Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs), Higher Secondary Schools and Hospitals. The upgradation of existing Through Routes and Major Rural Links is based on priority of the proposed work in connecting critical facilities like the rural markets and education & health facilities.

Various independent evaluation studies, conducted by NITI Aayog, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM-A), World Bank and International Labour Organization (ILO), Birla Institute of Technology & Science (BITS), Pilani etc. on PMGSY have concluded that it has improved access to education and health care facilities, facilitated employment generation in both farm and non-farm sectors, helped farmers in getting better farm prices etc. PMGSY roads have provided better education opportunities to the children particularly girl child to continue their education beyond the elementary school level. Due to PMGSY roads, health facilities in rural areas are more accessible to people. Women have been the major beneficiary, with most of

the child births taking place in government hospitals and also the participation of women in financial decisions has increased and it is reflected in their market accessibility. This scheme also addresses the various Sustainable Development Goals on poverty alleviation.

(c) & (d): Yes. The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) promotes the adoption of eco-sensitive and sustainable construction practices, especially in hilly and mountainous regions like Assam. Roads under PMGSY-III are constructed using locally available materials and environmentally friendly technologies to minimise ecological impact and ensure long-term sustainability.

The programme encourages the use of green and non-conventional technologies such as Cold Mix Bitumen, Waste Plastic, Full Depth Reclamation (FDR), Cell-filled Concrete, and Panelled Cement Concrete. These technologies help reduce dependence on energy-intensive materials, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and minimise environmental degradation.

Further, roads in hilly terrain are designed and constructed in accordance with the guidelines provided in the Hill Roads Manual (IRC: SP:48) and other relevant Indian Roads Congress (IRC) codes. These standards ensure slope stability, proper drainage, and minimal disturbance to the natural landscape.

In Assam, out of the total 4,247 km road length sanctioned under PMGSY-III, 2,681 km has been approved for implementation using various new and green technologies, reflecting the Government's commitment to sustainable and climate-resilient rural infrastructure.

(e) & (f): Yes. Improved rural road network contributes to strengthening rural economies by facilitating easier transport of goods to markets. Enhanced connectivity will foster economic growth & trade, generate employment opportunities through construction and maintenance jobs and also facilitate tourism in the North Eastern Region of the country.
