

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1765
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.12.2017

RURAL ROADS NETWORK

1765. SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:
DR. PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE:
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:
SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:

Will the Minister of **RURAL DEVELOPMENT** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether adequate rural road network is absolutely necessary for the improvement of the economic and social conditions of the rural people and if so, the response of the Union Government thereto;
- (b) whether rural roads in the country are in dilapidated condition and repair works are neglected and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government feels that rural roads are the lifeline for the villages and the States should frame policy for maintenance of such roads constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of the States which have framed policy in this regard;
- (e) whether the Union Government proposes to introduce new technologies for constructing all-weather rural roads in the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the progress made so far in this regard?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV)

(a): Rural road connectivity is a key component of rural development, since it promotes access to economic and social services thereby generating increased agricultural income and productive employment opportunities in rural India. As a part of its poverty reduction strategy and to bring about rapid sustainable development and socioeconomic transformation in rural India, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) was launched by the Government of India on 25th December 2000 to provide all-weather road connectivity to all eligible unconnected habitations. As per the Core Network, out of 1,78,184 eligible habitations, the States have reported that 1,30,974 habitations have been connected by constructing/upgrading 5,23,172.522 Km road length till 30th November, 2017.

PMGSY-II was launched in the year 2013 to consolidate the existing rural road network to improve its overall efficiency as a provider of transportation services for people, goods and services. Under PMGSY-II, out of the target of 50,000 Km road length, 29,222.98 Km have been sanctioned by the Ministry and 12,456 Km have been upgraded by the States till 30th November, 2017.

(b) to (d): PMGSY Roads are constructed for the designed life of 10 years and maintenance of such roads is the responsibility of the State Government concerned. As per PMGSY guidelines, the responsibility for construction as well as post construction 5 year maintenance of constructed/upgraded roads lies with same contractor. Maintenance funds to service the contract are budgeted by the State Government and placed at the disposal of State Rural Roads Development Agencies (SRRDAs) in a separate maintenance fund account. The Ministry has time and again advised the States to notify State Specific Rural Road Maintenance Policy to ensure that the assets created under PMGSY are preserved and to ensure adequate budget for maintenance of such roads. So far, 22 States viz Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal have notified such policy.

(e)&(f): With a view to reduce the “carbon footprint” of rural roads, reduce environmental pollution, increase the working season and bring cost effectiveness, PMGSY is aggressively encouraging the use of “Green Technologies” and non-conventional materials like waste plastic, cold mix, geo-textiles, fly-ash, iron and copper slag etc. in rural roads.

During the year 2016-17, 4100 Km roads have been constructed using such technologies. During the current year, against a target of 10,082 Km, the States have reported to have constructed 3,478.34 Km using such technologies till 30th November, 2017.
