

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 882
ANSWERED ON 07/02/2023

PMGSY-III IN KERALA

882. SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by the Union Government for the completion of the entire length of 1425 kms of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)-III roads allocated to the State of Kerala;
- (b) whether some portion of the work is yet to begin as it is proposed with a surface dressing;
- (c) whether it has come to the notice of the Union Government that the road construction contractors in Kerala are not equipped with necessary machinery and are not familiar with such a technology; and
- (d) if so, the course of action from the Union Government to carry on the work and ensure its timely completion?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a) The State of Kerala has been allocated target of 1,425 Km road length under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)-III, against which the State has so far been sanctioned 686.232 Km. Out of total sanctioned length, 71.74 Km has already been completed. The implementation period of PMGSY-III is upto March, 2025. The Ministry has been constantly following-up with the State Government for submission of proposals, which conform to the guidelines, for the balance length.

(b) to (d) Rural roads under PMGSY are constructed and maintained as per the technical specifications and geometric design standards given in the Ministry of Rural Development Specifications for Rural Roads, Rural Roads Manual of the Indian Roads Congress (IRC) (IRC-SP:20) and also, where required, the Hill Road Manual (IRC:SP:48) and other relevant IRC Codes & Manuals. As per IRC: SP:72-2015, which is meant for design of low volume rural roads, Surface Dressing (SD) is recommended as surface course for rural roads designed for cumulative Equivalent Single-Axle Load (ESAL) repetition up to 3,00,000 (T5) categories. Surface dressing can also be adopted for traffic category up to T9 as per Para 7.3.3 of IRC: SP:72-2015. Surface dressing is suitable for all climatic/ rainfall conditions as per IRC: SP:72-2015.

The State of Kerala has been sanctioned 58 road works of 251.209 Km using surface dressing technology. The choice of surface dressing for rural roads in Kerala has been made as per the traffic category of the roads, as specified in IRC code. As reported by the State Government, of the sanctioned projects under surface dressing, 53 road works of 227.116 Km stand awarded. Agreement for the awarded works was executed from April, 2022 to August, 2022 and the works are reaching the base course layer.

Execution of works under PMGSY is discussed with State Governments during various review meetings. Also training programmes/ webinars have been conducted for States, Programme Implementation Units (PIUs) and contractors from time to time. Recently, during International Conference on New Technologies and Innovations in Rural Roads held from 24-26 May, 2022 in New Delhi, a booklet has been published and circulated to States on surface dressing covering the execution process/ methodology in detail. PMGSY had adopted new technologies in construction of rural roads, and for this purpose, suitable hand-holding is provided to the states.
