

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 415
ANSWERED ON 05/12/2023**

EQUALITY VILLAGES UNDER PMAY-G

415. SHRI RAVIKUMAR D.:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any plan to construct houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) in rural areas without any caste division and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether the construction of houses on the basis of caste is against the spirit of the equality clause of the Constitution;**
- (c) whether Tamil Nadu has created more than 200 'Equality Villages' and provided accommodation to people belonging to all castes in the equality villages and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d) whether the Union Government has any plan to set up such equality villages under PMAY-G and if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

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

(a): In order to achieve "Housing for All", the overall target is to construct 2.95 crore houses under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) in rural areas. The beneficiaries under the scheme are identified on the basis of housing deprivation parameters and exclusion criteria prescribed under Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011. These parameters/criteria are applied both on SECC 2011 and "Awaas+" survey databases and then they are further subjected to due verification by Gram Sabha and an appellate process thereafter. The houses under the scheme are provided to all the rural areas as per the guidelines without any caste discrimination.

(b): Under the PMAY-G, minimum of 60% of the target at the national level is earmarked for SC/ST households. Further, the States are allowed to interchange targets between SC and ST if there are no eligible beneficiaries from either of the category. Also on exhaustion of SC/ST beneficiaries, the State/UT by a duly signed letter by the Chief Secretary can allocate target to the beneficiaries from the “Others” category after the approval of the Ministry.

(c): It is an initiative of the Government of Tamil Nadu. The State Government has reported that to promote social justice and to spread Thanthai Periyar’s message of Social equality, they have launched the scheme named “Periyar Ninaivu Samathuvapuram” which is an integral part of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Indian Independence during the year 1997-98. Under this scheme, an area up to an extent of 8 to 9 acres of approachable land is identified wherein Samathuvapuram (Equality Village) is established which consist of 100 houses with all basic infrastructure facilities like water supply, Road works, Street lights, play grounds, Parks, Community Hall, Library, Anganvadi, PD Shop, School Building and School Toilet etc. All 100 houses are allotted to all communities in the ratio of SC-40, BC-25, MBC-25, Others-10. So far, the Government of Tamil Nadu has established 238 Samathuvapurams during 1997 to 2001 and 2008 to 2011 in the state where all communities live in unity and brotherhood.

(d): There is no proposal to set up "equality villages". In fact, PMAY-G works on a saturation made for coverage of all households having Kutcha houses upto two rooms, irrespective of their caste, creed and religion. Basic facilities in those houses viz. toilets, electricity and LPG connections thereto are assured through convergence with the ongoing schemes. The Government of India is already implementing various Development schemes for poverty alleviation, wage employment, rural infrastructure, skill development, etc. which have over the years reduced poverty and improved the quality of life and infrastructure in rural areas.
