

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 35
ANSWERED ON 19/07/2022

FAULTY GRADIENTS UNDER PMGSY

*35. ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any plans to adapt road construction practices under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) according to the local requirements;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received any proposals/petitions to resolve the issue of faulty gradients to the roads built under PMGSY in Idukki district and if so, the details of action taken in this regard; and
- (d) whether the Government has received any proposals/petitions to change the restrictions regarding 40% ceiling for earthworks under PMGSY and if so, the details of action taken in this regard?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI GIRIRAJ SINGH)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply of part (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No 35 for 19.07.2022

(a) & (b) Rural roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) are constructed 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. The choice of design and surface for the road is determined, inter-alia, by factors like traffic, soil type and rainfall, following the technical specifications laid down in the Guidelines for the design of flexible pavements for low volume rural roads (IRC:SP:72-2015 for traffic upto T9 category/2 Million Standard Axle (MSA) and IRC:37-2018 for traffic more than 2 msa and guidelines for design of rigid pavements.

(c) As per the IRC norms, the permitted gradient for rural roads is 1 in 12.5 and in exceptional circumstances 1 in 10. The Ministry received proposal from the State of Kerala requesting to permit the State to adopt the Gradient of 1 in 8 to 1 in 10 using mandatory traffic signs in short stretches for roads proposed for upgradation under PMGSY-III. The proposal was examined and the State has been asked on 8th September, 2021 to furnish data regarding the adoption of such steeper gradients on the existing roads of Public Works Department in the State in hill areas and their record of satisfactory traffic movement and accident data, if any. The response from the State in the matter is awaited.

(d) Government in the year 2019 launched PMGSY-III for consolidation of 1,25,000 Km existing Through Routes and Major Rural Links connecting habitations, inter-alia, to Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs), Higher Secondary Schools and Hospitals. The programme focuses on upgradation of existing Through Routes and Major Rural Links based on priority giving importance to critical facilities like the rural markets and education & health facilities.

The Kerala State Government had submitted a proposal of 127 roads of 615.24 km under PMGSY-III (Batch I of 2021-22) for sanction. Out of these 120 road works of 567.79 Km were sanctioned on 4th October, 2022 and for balance 7 roads, which were having substantial length with earthen surface, the State was asked to submit detailed justification, as PMGSY-III envisages upgradation of *existing* roads. Based on the justification submitted by the State Government, 3 road works, out of the balance 7 road works, were subsequently sanctioned on 11th January, 2022.
