

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 256
ANSWERED ON 18/03/2025**

PROMOTION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL AREAS

***256. SMT. LOVELY ANAND:**

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of schemes being implemented to promote economic development in rural areas in the country;**
- (b) whether the Government is implementing any special policy to promote agriculture based startups and rural entrepreneurship, if so, the details thereof; and**
- (c) the number of new projects sanctioned under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) for the development of rural road and connecting routes and the details thereof?**

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN)**

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) to (C) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*256 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 18.03.2025.

(a): With a view to promote economic development in rural areas in the country, Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) is implementing a number of schemes/programmes with the main focus on increasing livelihood opportunities, empowering rural women, providing social safety net, skilling of rural youth, infrastructure development etc. These include Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), Deendayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDUGKY), Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) and National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) and Watershed Development Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY).

(b): To promote rural entrepreneurship, DAY-NRLM is implementing Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP) since 2015, which supports the Self-Help Group (SHG) and their family members to set-up small enterprises in the non-farm sector. The programme is implemented in 31 States and Union Territories and cumulatively 3.36 lakh enterprises have been supported so far. SVEP develops an eco-system for enterprise development in rural areas, with SHG households, which includes:

- i. Community Enterprise Fund (CEF), a dedicated fund for providing loans to entrepreneurs;**
- ii. Cadre of Community Resource Persons-Enterprise Promotion (CRP-EP) for providing Business Support Services;**
- iii. The services include identifying business ideas, preparation of business plans, providing trainings, accessing loans from banks, maintenance of accounts, marketing etc.;**
- iv. Dedicated center for providing information to entrepreneurs called Block Resource Centre (BRC);**
- v. Trained human resources consisting of Block Programme Manager (BPM), Mentor and CRP-EP.**

In addition to this, Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare is implementing "Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Development" programme under RashtriyaKrishiVikasYojana (RKVY) from 2018-19, to promote innovation and agri-entrepreneurship, by providing financial and technical support for nurturing startups. It has also created AgriSURE Fund which aims to support early-stage agri-startups and rural enterprises by providing capital assistance in equity and debt. Its specific objectives include fostering innovation, promoting high-risk and high-impact activities, and advancing technologies such as AI, precision farming, climate-friendly solutions, and digital agriculture.

(c): Since inception till 11.03.2025, a total of 8,34,772 km of road length has been sanctioned, out of which 7,74,757 Km of road length has been completed under various interventions/verticals of PMGSY. A new vertical named PMGSY-IV has been launched on 11th September, 2024 under PMGSY with a focus on providing all-weather road connectivity to unconnected habitations of 500+ population in plain areas and 250 + population in NE and Hill States/UTs, special category areas (Tribal Schedule-V, Aspirational Districts/Blocks, Desert Areas) and 100+ in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts as per Census 2011. The scheme will be implemented from 2024-25 to 2028-29 with a target to provide connectivity to 25,000 unconnected habitations. The Central Government is working in close coordination with the States to facilitate submission of proposals under the scheme.

Also, a separate vertical called Pradhan MantriJanjatiAdivasiNyayaMahaAbhiyan (PM-JANMAN) under PMGSY has been launched for providing road connectivity to Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) Habitations. Habitations with population sizes up to 100 are to be covered. The target length is 8,000 Km with an implementation period of 5 years (2023-24 to 2027-28). As on 11.03.2024, a total of 4,831 Km road length has already been sanctioned under this scheme.
