

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2960
ANSWERED ON 18/03/2025**

ROADS AND BRIDGES IN DARBHANGA

2960. SHRI GOPAL JEE THAKUR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether more than 350 km of rural roads and hundreds of bridges being constructed to Darbhanga Parliamentary Constituency under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana Phase-III, if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether there is widespread irregularity in the tender execution and construction work of these roads and bridges, if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether work has been allotted to a number of contractors by using fake documents and fake audits and the quality of construction work is such that many roads have started breaking down while the use of iron, cement and soil is being reduced in bridge construction work and the pilling is being done less than the required depth, if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d) whether the Government proposes to investigate the construction work including the tender execution process of roads and bridges being constructed in Darbhanga Parliamentary Constituency during Phase-III by the Central Technical Investigation Team, if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI KAMLESH PASWAN)**

(a): In Darbhanga Parliamentary Constituency, 40 roads (298.84 km) & 76 bridges have been sanctioned, out of which 20 roads (210.79 km) & 7 bridges have been constructed till date under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana phase-III, as informed by State of Bihar.

(b) to (d): Rural Road is a State subject and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is a one-time special intervention of Central Government to improve the Rural Infrastructure through construction of roads for providing connectivity to eligible habitations. As such, the responsibility to ensure various aspects of implementation of the programme viz. tendering, quality, timely completion of PMGSY roads etc. lies with the State Governments.

However, in order to bring uniformity in award of works sanctioned under PMGSY, National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (NRIDA), a technical arm of the Ministry has developed Standard Bidding Document (SBD). States are required to follow the various provisions of SBD in the matter of award of works sanctioned under PMGSY.

Besides, a three-tiered Quality Control mechanism is in place under PMGSY for ensuring construction of quality road works and durability of road assets under PMGSY. Under the first tier, the Programme Implementation Units (PIUs) are required to ensure process control through mandatory tests on material and workmanship at the field laboratory. The second tier is a structured independent quality monitoring at the State level through State Quality Monitors (SQMs) to ensure that every work is inspected at initial stage, intermediate stage and final stage of the construction. Under the third tier, which is at the national level, independent National Quality Monitors (NQMs) are deployed for random inspection of road works to monitor quality and to provide guidance of senior professionals to the field functionaries. Based on the periodic monitoring of quality of roads under the 3-tier mechanism, corrective measures, wherever necessary, are taken by the State Governments. Thereafter, the Action Taken Report (ATR) is verified on site by State Quality Monitors (SQMs). The State Quality Coordinator (SQC) then, examines the ATR and furnishes the compliance report. The monitoring of Action Taken Reports (ATRs) is done by National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (NRIDA).

The Ministry received reference from Shri GopalJee Thakur, Hon'ble Member of Parliament regarding irregularities in the tendering of works under PMGSY-III, the allocation based on fake documents, and the substandard construction of said works. Accordingly, Ministry asked NRIDA to deploy a team of National Quality Monitors (NQM) for inspection of the alleged works. As per

the NQM inspection report received, 5 works were inspected and all were found to be of 'Unsatisfactory' grading.

Subsequently, the NQM inspection report was shared with the State and an Action Taken Report (ATR) was sought. The state of Bihar has informed that on receipt of the complaint, an Inquiry Committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Chief Engineer-3, Rural Works Department (Bihar) and based on the findings of the report, a charge sheet has been framed against the concerned Superintending Engineer, Works Circle, Darbhanga. Moreover, necessary rectification work has either been done by the State or is in process of doing so.

As regards the alleged use of fake documents by contractors in tendering of the said works under PMGSY, the State has informed that agreements of two contractors have been terminated by Executive Engineer, Works Division, Darbhanga-I based on the complaints received regarding fake experience and audit report.
