

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3951
ANSWERED ON 25/03/2025**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF AAJEEVIKA GRAMEEN EXPRESS YOJANA
3951. DR. BYREDDY SHABARI:**

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details and total number of blocks selected under the AajeevikaGrameen Express Yojana (AGEY) during the last five years, State and district-wise including Andhra Pradesh;**
- (b) the details and total funds sanctioned, utilised and released under AGEY during the last five years, State-wise including Andhra Pradesh;**
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any capacity-building programmes for staff at the State, district and block levels for implementing AGEY, if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d) whether the Government has conducted any studies or evaluations to assess the overall progress and impact of AGEY, if so, the details thereof, State-wise particularly in Andhra Pradesh?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(DR. CHANDRA SEKHAR PEMMASANI)**

(a): AajeevikaGrameen Express Yojana (AGEY) is a sub-scheme launched in year 2017, under the centrally sponsored scheme of DeendayalAntyodayaYojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), to provide an alternative source of livelihoods to members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) by facilitating them to operate public transport services in backward rural areas. The vehicles under the scheme operate in backward and remote rural areas for transportation needs and to meet demands to cater services to local commuters and carriage of goods. The members of SHGs and Groups from Community Based Organizations (CBOs) are the beneficiaries of the AGEY. AGEY is approved in 359 blocks of 211 districts of 25 States. A total of 2297 vehicles have been sanctioned under AGEY. However, no new block has been approved under AGEY during the last five years.

(b): The scheme has the provision for purchasing either 3-wheeler or 4-wheeler vehicles with interest-free financial support and has a provision of loan support from the Community Investment Fund (CIF) already provided to the SHGs across the Country under DAY-NRLM. There was no separate funding for this scheme. State/District/Block-wise details of vehicles sanctioned under AGEY are available at Ministry's portal: nrlm.gov.in.

(c): The training and capacity building programmes for staff under AGEY is done by the States/UTs in the districts and blocks.

(d): An impact study was conducted by the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR) in November 2022. The key findings are as follows -

(i) In terms of outreach, the AGEY vehicles connected transportation facility to the remotest part of the village areas in the study blocks. Further, the vehicles were well accessed and distributed to the targeted beneficiaries. Particularly, the study results revealed majority of the vehicles are allocated to the backward and socio-economically poorer section of the society.

(ii) In terms of access to other services 46% of respondents felt the scheme has provided cheaper transport services by connecting the remote places, 38% saving in waiting time, 45% of respondents mentioned on-time facility in carrying goods to the market, and 38% of the respondents got huge support for emergency medical services for the targeted communities.

(iii) The scheme also provided an opportunity for women in developing their capacities and harness their driving skills. The study observed women's role as driver for vehicles in itself is a phenomenal change within the society, breaking the social taboos and proving limitless boundaries for themselves, and achieving new avenues of success.

(iv) The scheme has been successful in improving the rural economy in turn to assist the rural women with the alternative source of income in particular for the SHG women. Farmers and vendors were able to reach marketplaces, community members were availing discounted fares, and access to schools, hospitals; and attending workplaces became easier than before in remote areas.

(v) Another key benefit derived from the AGEY is that, the scheme is able to connect remote villages of the country through its vehicles.
