

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4368
ANSWERED ON 19/08/2025**

PERSISTENT CHALLENGES IN PUNJAB

4368. Dr. Raj Kumar Chabbewal:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the persistent developmental challenges in the Kandi region of Punjab including lack of irrigation, drinking water scarcity and poor road connectivity, if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) the steps taken to address soil erosion, unemployment and migration from this ecologically sensitive region; and**
- (c) whether any special financial package or Central assistance is being planned to support holistic development of the Kandi belt and uplift its socio-economic conditions, if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

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

(a)to (c): Ministry of Rural Development is implementing various Schemes for development of rural areas of the country which includes Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) and Pradhan Mantri Gram SadakYojana (PMGSY). Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is a demand driven wage employment Scheme, with an objective to provide not less than one hundred days of unskilled manual work as a guaranteed employment in every financial year to every household in rural areas as per demand, resulting in creation of productive assets of prescribed quality and durability.

It provides livelihood security, i.e. fall back options for livelihood for the rural households, when no better employment opportunity is available.

Details of Persondays generated in Kandi region (Hoshiarpur, SBS Nagar (Nawanshahr), Pathankot, Ropar and SAS Nagar Mohali) of Punjab under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS during the current financial year 2025-26 (as on 14.08.2025) are given below:

Sl. No.	District	Persondays generated (Figure in lakh)
1	Hoshiarpur	6.77
2	SBS Nagar (Nawanshahr)	6.15
3	Pathankot	3.67
4	Ropar	5.84
5	SAS Nagar Mohali	3.15

Category-wise details of works taken up and expenditure in Kandi region (Hoshiarpur, SBS Nagar (Nawanshahr), Pathankot, Ropar and SAS Nagar Mohali) of Punjab under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS during the current financial year 2025-26 (as on 14.08.2025) are given at Annexure.

With regards to Pradhan Mantri Gram SadakYojana (PMGSY), it is stated that "Rural road" is a State subject. As a part of poverty reduction strategy, the Government of India launched the Pradhan Mantri Gram SadakYojana (PMGSY-I) on 25th December 2000 to assist the States through construction of rural roads. Under PMGSY I, eligible unconnected habitations were taken up for providing connectivity through all-weather roads. In Punjab, under 500+ population category, a total of 389 habitations were sanctioned for providing connectivity under the PMGSY-I and all the habitations have already been provided connectivity. Other verticals viz. PMGSY II and PMGSY III were also started for upgradation of rural roads for better connectivity to growth centres and for improved connectivity to schools, hospitals, Gramin Agricultural Markets, respectively.

PMGSY plays a pivotal role in improving rural connectivity and enabling inclusive development. Since its inception in 2000, PMGSY

has been instrumental in transforming rural livelihoods by providing all-weather road connectivity to previously unconnected habitations, especially in remote, border, tribal, and backwards areas. Improved road infrastructure under PMGSY has:

- Facilitated better access to health care, education, and social services.
- Enabled market linkages for farmers, artisans, and entrepreneurs, thereby enhancing rural incomes and creating local employment opportunities.
- Supported rural housing programs (e.g., PMAY-G) by ensuring material supply chains and construction access.
- Strengthened rural development schemes like MGNREGS, NRLM, JalJeevan Mission, and Swachh Bharat Mission through improved last-mile connectivity.

The State of Punjab has already been sanctioned its complete entitlement under PMGSY-I, II & III. The Status of projects sanctioned, completed and balance under various verticals of PMGSY for the State of Punjab as on 13th August, 2025 are as under:

Vertical	Sanctioned			Completed			Balance*		
	No. of roads	Road length (km)	LSBs	No. of roads	Road length (km)	LSBs	No. of roads	Road length (km)	LSBs
PMGSY-I	1,050	6,937	0	1,050	6,912	0	0	0	0
PMGSY-II	123	1,343	7	123	1,331	7	0	0	0
PMGSY-III	339	3,365	67	205	2,241	17	134	1132	50
Total	1,512	11,645	74	1,378	10,484	24	134	1,132	20

** Balance road length is less than the difference of sanctioned and completed length due to the reasons that some projects were completed with less than the sanctioned length due to reduction in road length, change in alignment, construction of part length by other agencies, etc.*

Recently, a new vertical named PMGSY-IV has been launched on 11th September, 2024 with a focus on providing all-weather connectivity to 25,000 eligible unconnected habitations of 500+ population in plain areas, 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.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4368 dated 19.08.2025.

District -wise, Category-wise details of works taken up under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS in Kandi region of Punjab during current FY 2025-26 (as on 14th August 2025)															
Name of the Categories	HOSHIARPUR			SBS Nagar NAWANSHAHR			Pathankot			ROPAR			SAS NAGAR MOHALI		
	No. of works		Total Exp.(in Rs lakh)	No. of works		Total Exp.(in Rs lakh)	No. of works		Total Exp.(in Rs lakh)	No. of works		Total Exp.(in Rs lakh)	No. of works		Total Exp.(in Rs lakh)
	Completed	Ongoing		Completed	Ongoing		Completed	Ongoing		Completed	Ongoing		Completed	Ongoing	
Anganwadi/Other Rural Infrastructure	24	1,093	530.48	28	239	110.60	4	397	96.58	24	295	59.48	2	326	50.71
Drought Proofing	232	1,784	441.07	122	593	418.70	18	1,132	264.18	114	733	190.43	12	669	418.78
Flood Control and Protection	67	375	452.66	10	64	68.35	-	33	22.00	94	407	446.54	-	26	0.88
Land Development	79	394	114.20	256	260	280.50	40	1,209	628.09	424	836	387.26	33	263	122.29
Micro Irrigation Works	109	508	274.84	10	143	217.77	14	253	161.78	22	85	259.80	-	11	2.51
Renovation of traditional water bodies	142	1,030	641.90	101	384	940.29	1	110	30.68	24	523	901.43	6	276	408.58
Rural Connectivity	104	1,140	111.89	76	285	39.73	24	874	172.85	91	325	62.95	9	317	48.34
Rural Sanitation	46	753	10.73	16	76	7.27	3	356	14.11	8	63	2.17	3	259	53.58
Water Conservation and Water Harvesting	33	156	30.46	35	147	200.53	2	236	75.47	13	174	116.19	1	72	6.39
Works on Individuals Land	63	1,632	85.58	63	678	10.91	4	1,441	48.42	119	1,823	62.16	4	1,399	71.98
Total	899	8,865	2,693.81	717	2,869	2,294.65	110	6,041	1,514.16	933	5,264	2,488.41	70	3,618	1,184.04
