

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1594
ANSWERED ON 09/12/2025**

IRREGULARITIES UNDER PMGSY

1594. Shri Rajesh Ranjan:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether serious irregularities have been found in the quality of roads under construction and constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in the country, State-wise particularly in rural areas where roads at many places get damaged within a few months;**
- (b) whether serious lapses, such as violation of norms, use of substandard materials and lack of monitoring by the concerned officials, officers and contractors have been observed in many States, if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government proposes to constitute a special audit/investigation team to comprehensively investigate the said irregularities and verify the quality, age and construction standards of roads constructed under the PMGSY, if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d) whether the Government proposes to strengthen the technical monitoring system to take strict action, against erring officials and contractors and increase transparency in the said scheme, if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): 'Rural Roads' is a State subject. As per the guidelines of Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), the maintenance and repairs of roads is the responsibility of the respective State Governments implementing the programme. The bidding process for selection of contractors and the check for quality of material mobilised are under the purview of the State Governments.

However, in order to monitor the quality of roads being constructed under the programme, a three tiered quality control mechanism, i.e. the Project Implementation Units (PIUs) as the first tier, State Quality Monitors (SQMs) as the second tier and National Quality Monitors (NQMs) as the third tier, is in place under PMGSY to ensure quality in construction of road works and the durability of road assets. Guidelines/Instructions to regulate the quality control process have been issued to States/UTs from time to time.

Regular inspections of PMGSY works are being conducted under 2nd and 3rd tier of quality monitoring. The State Quality Coordinators (SQC) of the respective States/UTs have been designated as Nodal Officer for receipt and handling the complaints. If a work is found unsatisfactory, on account of both structural or non-structural defects, the report is shared with the State Government highlighting the deficiencies and apprising the States to remove the defects. The contractor is required to rectify the defects on his/her own cost. The State submits the Action Taken Report (ATR) after rectification.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, the works which are ongoing, completed and are having structural deficiencies are graded as "Unsatisfactory" by the Quality Monitors during inspections. The details of State-wise inspections conducted by National Quality Monitors (NQMs) and unsatisfactory quality grading reported, from April, 2024 to November, 2025, is given at Annexure.

(d): To strengthen the quality check mechanism, the establishment of a geo-tagged field Lab has been made compulsory. Also, a new version of the Quality Monitoring System App has been developed to include e-forms and other initiatives that have strengthened quality monitoring systems. Consequent upon the introduction of e-MARG i.e. software module for maintenance payments to the contractor during the defect liability period, such payments have been made commensurate with the quality of roads through a performance-based contract management system. To ensure that people engaged in quality checks are adequately proficient and well trained, National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (NRIDA), a technical arm of the Ministry of Rural Development, has been conducting mandatory proficiency tests of NQMs and SQMs. The skills of NQMs, SQMs and PIUs are also being developed through training programmes, etc.

Further, to ensure that quality monitoring is being done properly on the ground, it has been made mandatory to set up a

Quality Monitoring Cell under each State Rural Road Development Agency (SRRDA) and State Quality Coordinators (SQC)s have been entrusted with the task of scrutinizing all reports of SQMs and give a certificate to this effect to the Ministry. Concerned CEOs have also been asked to scrutinize the quality control registers periodically and submit a certificate to this effect to the Ministry while submitting proposals for fund release. The ATRs on observations by the NQMs are reviewed with the States for compliance. Performance of the NQMs as well as SQMs are also reviewed and such NQMs/ SQMs are de-paneled whose performance is not found satisfactory or who give satisfactory inspection reports in majority of the cases without application of mind. The quality of PMGSY works is also reviewed regularly by the Ministry in various review meetings like the Performance Review Committee, Regional Review Meetings, and Empowered Committee. The Ministry has also strengthened the IT module for monitoring of quality of PMGSY works. In brief, the Ministry has taken up steps for monitoring and regulating the quality of PMGSY roads.

Whenever NQMs report that a work is not meeting the quality standards prescribed in the guidelines, the PIU ensures that the contractor either replaces the defective material or rectifies the workmanship, as the case requires. Thereafter, the ATR is verified on site by SQMs. The SQC then, examines the ATR and furnishes the compliance report. The monitoring of ATR is done by NRIDA, which is a technical arm of the Ministry of Rural Development.

As regards the action taken against the contractors and field officials found guilty, it is done as per the policy of respective States. However, the conditions prescribed in this regard are provided by National Rural Infrastructure development Agency (NRIDA) in the bid documents. To ensure transparency and accountability, and strengthening of the monitoring mechanism, the NQMs who are assigned the investigations/ inspections are directed to share their detailed plan of visit to Hon'ble MP/ MLA in order to enable them to be present during inspection.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1594 for answer on 09.12.2025

State/UT-wise details of inspections conducted by National Quality Monitors (NQMs) and unsatisfactory quality grading reported, from April, 2024 to November, 2025)

Sr. No.	State	Completed Works		Ongoing Works		Bridge Works	
		Total Inspections	Works graded as Unsatisfactory	Total Inspections	Works graded as Unsatisfactory	Total Inspections	Works graded as Unsatisfactory
1	Andaman And Nicobar	0	0	1	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	64	0	75	3	18	0
3	Arunachal Pradesh	30	16	60	14	0	0
4	Assam	65	20	74	9	5	0
5	Bihar	113	16	116	8	114	30
6	Chhattisgarh	54	8	98	3	99	12
7	Gujarat	8	0	4	0	39	0
8	Haryana	19	8	2	0	0	0
9	Himachal Pradesh	55	10	102	19	0	0
10	Jammu And Kashmir	42	9	48	2	7	5
11	Jharkhand	70	17	174	10	118	10
12	Karnataka	35	7	18	3	5	1
13	Kerala	12	1	55	7	0	0
14	Ladakh	0	0	5	0	0	0
15	Madhya Pradesh	60	1	93	2	134	24
16	Maharashtra	76	10	266	14	31	0
17	Manipur	14	5	23	7	12	2
18	Meghalaya	53	13	80	15	1	0
19	Mizoram	22	5	17	2	0	0
20	Nagaland	16	13	22	8	0	0
21	Odisha	132	46	124	21	67	22
22	Punjab	39	5	39	4	0	0
23	Rajasthan	83	3	53	0	32	1
24	Sikkim	12	2	12	0	48	11
25	Tamil Nadu	45	2	51	0	26	22
26	Telangana	12	1	88	8	30	5
27	Tripura	18	3	34	1	0	0
28	Uttar Pradesh	218	18	127	12	0	0
29	Uttarakhand	60	16	93	10	11	0
30	West Bengal	57	9	120	5	0	0
	Total	1,484	264	2,074	187	797	145
