

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2767
ANSWERED ON 10/03/2026**

REPAIRING OF RURAL ROADS

2767. Shri Ananta Nayak:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a delay in repairing rural roads damaged during the last year, if so, the details thereof particularly in the Keonjhar Lok Sabha Constituency;**
- (b) whether complaints have been received from the affected communities in this regard;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and**
- (d) the manner in which the Government checks the quality of repair of roads and ensures proper utilisation of the allocated funds?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): "Rural road" is a State subject, and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is being implemented by the Government of India since the year 2000 as a one-time special intervention to provide rural connectivity, by way of a single all-weather road, to the eligible unconnected habitations of the designated population as laid out in the program guidelines.

PMGSY Roads are covered under a 5-year maintenance contract to be entered into, along with a construction contract with the same contractor as per the Standard Bidding Document (SBD). Since the design life of PMGSY roads is ten years, the States have to undertake further five years of maintenance. While implementing PMGSY-III, a MoU was signed with the States for undertaking post five-year maintenance. The new connectivity under PMGSY-IV will be permitted only to those States/UTs that have demonstrated through the electronic Maintenance of Rural Roads (eMARG) platform that the routine maintenance of PMGSY roads constructed in their State, post

5 years of construction of the road, has been carried out. The post five-year construction module of eMARG incorporates initial rehabilitation, renewal, pre-renewal routine maintenance, post-renewal maintenance and emergency repair works, as required.

Maintenance funds to service the contract are required to be budgeted by the State Governments and placed at the disposal of the State Rural Roads Development Agencies (SRRDAs) in a separate maintenance account. On expiry of this 5 year post construction maintenance, PMGSY roads are required to be placed under Zonal maintenance contracts consisting of 5 year maintenance, including renewal as per maintenance cycle, from time to time, to be funded by the state governments. All States have framed their own rural roads maintenance policies based on the policy framework prepared by the National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (NRIDA), a technical arm of the Ministry of Rural Development.

In Keonjhar Lok Sabha Constituency, repairs of damaged rural roads are being addressed in a time-bound manner. One complaint has been received from the affected communities in Keonjhar Lok Sabha Constituency regarding the delay in the repair of the road “Bodapalasa to Kempasada” under PMGSY. This road is under 5 year Defect Liability Period (DLP). Upon receipt of the complaint, field verification was conducted by the concerned field officers in the State, and based on inspection reports, necessary instructions have been given to the executing agency to immediately take up the maintenance work of the said road.

(d): To ensure the quality and proper utilisation of funds for rural road maintenance, the Ministry has instituted the following multi-layered monitoring and enforcement mechanisms:

(i) Independent Quality Checks: The Ministry deploys National Quality Monitors (NQMs) to conduct random inspections of road works. Any instance of substandard work is promptly flagged to the concerned State for immediate corrective action.

(ii) Digital oversight through e-MARG: The e-MARG portal, now operational in all States, enables effective tracking of road conditions and maintenance compliance during the Defect Liability Period (DLP). Uploads of geo-referenced photographic evidence ensure transparency and timely execution.

(iii) Fund Release Linked to Performance: Central Share of the programme funds under PMGSY is conditional upon the States fulfilling their maintenance obligations. States must certify release of

a minimum percentage of the current year's maintenance funds i.e. 50% for fund release proposals submitted after May, and 100% for the proposals submitted after November.

(iv) Periodic Review & State-Level Monitoring: The Ministry regularly reviews fund utilisation and maintenance progress during review meetings with States/UTs. States are advised to undertake timely inspections and adhere to prescribed maintenance cycles.

(v) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU): Participation in the scheme mandates that each State/UT sign an MoU committing to adequate provisioning of funds for both the initial and extended maintenance phases.
