

### Development of roads in rural area

†1925. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report of International Food Policy Research Institute wherein construction of roads has been stated to be most important for alleviation of rural poverty;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard; and

(c) the percentage of rural habitats of the country connected by roads upto March, 2009?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per 7th Schedule of the Constitution of India, Rural Roads are within the jurisdiction of the State Governments. However, realizing the importance of Rural Roads, Government of India has launched Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) on 25th December, 2000 to provide road connectivity in rural areas of the country. The programme envisages connecting all habitations with a population of 500 persons and above (250 persons and above in respect of hill States, tribal and desert areas) with all weather roads. PMGSY is a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The Government of India has also identified 'Rural Roads' as one of the six components of 'Bharat Nirman' with a goal to provide connectivity to all habitations with a population of 1000 persons and above (500 persons and above in case of hill States, tribal and desert areas) with an all-weather road by 2009.

(c) It was initially estimated that 1,66,938 habitations were eligible for providing connectivity under PMGSY. Out of these, up to March, 2009, 19,847 habitations have either been connected by other schemes or found not feasible to connect. Out of the remaining 1,47,091 eligible habitations, 61,279 have been connected under the programme up to March, 2009. Thus 41.67% of the rural habitations eligible to be covered under PMGSY have been provided connectivity under the scheme up to March, 2009.

### Guidelines of NRDWP

1926. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently convened a meeting of State Secretaries for Rural Development to review the implementation of revised guidelines for National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP);

(b) if so, the details of discussion held in the meeting and the outcome thereof;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.