

inclusive growth by weaning away farmers from unsustainable jhumming practices and helping them to adopt sustainable on farm and off farm economic activities; keeping 60% of Mizoram's total area under rain forest cover; improving the income levels of urban and rural poor through sustainable farming activities, micro enterprises and cottage industries; introducing commercial farming; creating food security for all and restoration of ecological balance.

The programme targets to benefit 1,20,000 families, over 5 years for various livelihood options at a total cost of Rs.2,526.99 crores. The sectors included are agriculture, horticulture, sericulture, fisheries, animal husbandry, soil and water conservation, micro-enterprises, handloom and forestry.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Not applicable in view of reply to (b) above.

(d) The proposal is still under examination. After approval of the programme, the funds will be released starting from the financial year 2010-11.

#### PMGSY in Kerala

2106. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) work in Kerala are progressing at snail's speed due to various constraints;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of works sanctioned and pending for consideration with the period of their pendency;

(d) whether the State Government of Kerala have requested for relaxation of PMGSY norms; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) The progress of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in Kerala is relatively slow. Out of 953 road works sanctioned, the number of roads works completed upto January, 2010 is 455. Some of the reasons for slow progress of PMGSY in the State are as follows:-

(i) weak institutional structure at the State and District levels;

(ii) non-availability of technical officers at senior levels for supervision and professional implementation of the programme;

(iii) non-availability of land for proper geometrics; and

(iv) non-availability of local suitable soil along with the alignment of proposed road are the other factors responsible for slow process.

(c) The details of roads sanctioned under PMGSY for the State of Kerala is as under:-

Value of projects sanctioned	-	718.74 crore
No. of roads works sanctioned	-	953
Length sanctioned	-	2089.03 km.

The Empowered Committee has accorded 'in principle' approval for 420 road works of Phase-VII under PMGSY in its meeting held on 20th November, 2008. Out of 420 road works, clearance has been accorded for 200 road works under Bharat Nirman. The balance 220 road works are part of PMGSY beyond Bharat Nirman.

(d) Yes, Sir. The State Government has suggested relaxation of norms with regard to permissible road width and gradient.

(e) Government of Kerala has been intimated that the roadway width of six metres can be permitted when there are constraints on availability of land and the projected traffic is less than 100 motorised vehicles per day. As regards gradient, exceptional gradient has been permitted up to 10% for rural road as per the recommendation of an Expert Committee constituted by Ministry of Rural Development. However, this exceptional gradient should be limited to 100 metres at a stretch and should be used sparingly. In ghat sections, the recommended limiting gradient is 7% and the exceptional gradient remains at 10%.

An Expert Committee had been constituted to review the standards and specifications under PMGSY. The Committee considered the representations received from the States for making recommendations. The interim recommendations of the Committee on geometric parameters which include Carriageway width, Roadway width and Road land width have been circulated to all the States for adoption of the recommendations with immediate effect.

#### **Development work in Himachal Pradesh**

2107. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of works for provision of irrigation facility, horticulture plantation and land development facilities on land owned by households belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Below Poverty Line (BPL) families or to beneficiaries of land reforms or to the beneficiaries under the Indira Awas Yojana being carried out in Himachal Pradesh under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) during 2008-09 and 2009-10;

(b) the amount spent thereon during these years;

(c) whether a number of States have submitted proposals for taking up new works under NREGA; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) As reported by the State Government of Himachal Pradesh, 704 works were taken up during 2008-09 and 1783 works have been taken up during 2009-10 (up to Jan., 10) on the individual lands of beneficiaries belonging to SC/ST/BPL category, IAY and Land reforms beneficiaries. Project wise expenditure is not maintained by the Ministry.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Details are given in the Statement.