

policy initiatives and planning are based on ground realities. This Conference provides a platform for interaction, sharing of experiences and dissemination of information on Rural Development Programmes among the policymakers, planners and implementing agencies. The recommendations relate to operational aspects and better implementation of various schemes of the Ministry within the same outlays earmarked in the budget, hence the recommendations do not involve extra expenditure.

(c) The Ministry of Rural Development does not maintain the data on the productivity with regard to agriculture, cottage industries, social and economic upliftment. However, as per the Planning Commission's estimates the percentage of people living below poverty line in the rural areas declined from 37.27% in 1993 to 28.30% in 2004.

PMGSY in Assam

1780. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken to provide good all weather road connectivity to unconnected rural habitations with a population of more than 1000 persons under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in Assam; and

(b) the details of villages with a population of more than 1000 persons which are unconnected with road in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) envisages providing all-weather road connectivity to all unconnected rural habitations having population of 500 and more persons in plain areas and 250 and more persons in hill States, Tribal (Schedule V) areas and desert (Desert Development Plan) areas. In Assam, 7,323 habitations having population of 1000 & more persons were eligible to be connected under PMGSY. Out of these projects for connecting 6,015 habitations have been sanctioned and 4,012 habitations have been provided connectivity by June, 2010.

MGNREGS in Jharkhand

1781. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: