

Bharat Nirman Programme focuses on six components of rural infrastructure namely, Rural Drinking water, Housing, Irrigation, Rural Roads, Electrification, Rural Telephony. In order to improve the pace of implementation of this scheme, steps taken by the Government include (i) enhanced budgetary support (ii) strengthening institutional capacity (iii) augmentation of contracting capacity (iv) pro-active action for getting forest and environment clearance and (v) continuous monitoring of the physical and financial achievements under the different schemes by nodal Central Ministries/Departments.

Infrastructure development in Maharashtra

1489. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether infrastructure development in Maharashtra has come to a standstill for the past few months with various Departments sitting on projects worth nearly Rs. 13,000 crore;

(b) if so, the details of the projects stalled; and

(c) whether the PMO give a direction to the concerned Department to expedite the files and emphasis on the cost escalation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA): (a) to (c) No Sir. A number of infrastructure projects are being implemented/ in progress in Maharashtra. The PMO has directed all Ministries/Departments to nominate a Nodal Officer each, of the rank of a Joint Secretary or above, to report on a weekly basis on the progress of their department's projects (s). Important infrastructure projects under implementation in Maharashtra include Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), Mumbai Trans Harbor Link (MTHL), Mumbai Metro Line 3, Multi Model Corridor (MMC), Western Freeway, Mumbai Water Supply Scheme, JNNURM Buses and Hadron Beam Therapy Facility.

Criteria for poverty line

†1490. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Planning Commission has assumed criteria of poverty line for poor residing in urban areas as Rs. 33 and for the poor in rural areas it is Rs. 27; and

(b) if so, the basis thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.