

1	2	3	4
		WH Structure (Nos.)	268
		Farm Ponds (Nos.)	169
		Percolation Tanks (Nos.)	396
11.	Nalgonda	Afforestation (Ha.)	516
		Horticulture (Ha.)	4172
		Bunding (Ha.)	20283
		Length of Gullies (RMT)	11559
		WH Structure (Nos.)	16620
		Farm Ponds (Nos.)	1409
		Percolation Tanks (Nos.)	1142

**Appreciation for rural employment guarantee scheme**

426. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's flagship rural employment guarantee scheme has come in for praise from the World Bank after five years it had described the programme as policy barrier to economic development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the latest report of the World Bank described the programme as a stellar example of rural development and its change of heart can be attributed to the programme's model of financial inclusion worthy of emulation particularly the manner in which the wages are directly transferred into the bank accounts of the workers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The World Development report, 2014 has described the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Act (MGNREGA) as a 'stellar example of rural development'. The report went on to State that one of the key achievements of the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA has been that it has provided the rural poor with a safety net during times of adversity such as droughts, floods

or a failed harvest. Demand for work is massive, mostly from poor and disadvantaged groups, and at times of the year where no other work is available. Not only does the programme offer a useful safety net, but it also helps spread awareness of rights and promotes dignity. The most significant aspect which makes the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA stand out as an employment creation and poverty alleviation scheme is the fact that work is provided as a legal right and not just a one-time scheme. The report has also described it as a "Revolution in rural India" and that it "established a model for inclusive development". "India's Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act illustrates how good governance and social mobilization go hand-in-hand." The report also States that more than 45 million payments were made to the poor people living in rural areas using the banks/post offices and village officials

**Status of road connectivity under PMGSY**

427. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:  
SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the road connectivity has improved under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and other schemes;
- (b) if so, the comparative details thereof during each of the last five years; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH):  
(a) to (c) Rural Road is a State subject and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is a one-time special intervention to provide all-weather road connectivity to all eligible unconnected habitations existing in the core network in rural areas of the country. Under PMGSY, since inception, 98,483 road works have been completed, covering 3,85,315 km. length (including upgradation) connecting 93,846 habitations (as reported by the State Governments upto October, 2013). The details of connectivity provided under PMGSY during the last 5 years are as under:—

Year	No. of road works completed	Total length completed (in km.)	No. of habitations connected
1	2	3	4
2008-09	10536	52405	14475
2009-10	11583	60117	7877