

Year	Allocation (₹ in lacs)
2009-10	61.57
2010-11	84.78
2011-12	35.18
2012-13	1865.18
2013-14	3646.39

(c) The Rajasthan Forestry and Bio-diversity Project Phase-II has started only from the last year and benefits will start accruing after a few years when the plantations are established.

Financial assistance to mentally retarded persons under MGNREGA

1326. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to modify the guidelines of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) for the benefit of mentally retarded persons for granting financial assistance for their livelihood;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has already issued directions to the States in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Maintenance of roads under PMGSY

†1327. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the present system of maintenance of roads constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY);

(b) whether it is a fact that the condition of roads constructed under PMGSY turns

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

pitiable as these are not repaired on time and being linked to name of Prime Minister the State Governments don't carry out their repairs as per set standards;

(c) the details of poor and broken roads and the shortcoming in their maintenance, State-wise; and

(d) whether Government is contemplating to release funds under this scheme for the repair of roads constructed under PMGSY, so that the quality of these roads doesn't suffer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) to (d) Rural Roads is a State subject and PMGSY is a one time special intervention of the Government of India to improve rural infrastructure through construction of roads. The technical specifications and geometric design standards given in Rural Roads Manual/Hill Road Manual as well as other relevant specifications published by the Indian Road Congress (IRC) have resulted in construction of quality roads under PMGSY. The PMGSY guidelines stipulate that the construction of quality road works is the responsibility of the State Governments. Further, all PMGSY roads are covered by a 5-year maintenance contract, entered into along with the construction contract, with the same contractor, in accordance with the Standard Bidding Document (SBD). Maintenance funds to service the maintenance contract are budgeted by the State Governments. On expiry of 5-year post-construction maintenance, the State Governments make necessary budget provision to place such roads under zonal maintenance contracts. In order to bring the execution of PMGSY works to the desired quality standard, a three tier quality management mechanism has been institutionalized. Under the first tier, the Programme Implementation Units (PIUs) in the States, at the field level are required to ensure process control through mandatory tests on material and workmanship at field laboratory. The second tier is a structured independent quality monitoring at the State level through State Quality Monitors (SQMs) to ensure that every work is inspected at initial stage, middle stage and final stage of the construction. Under the third tier, independent National Quality Monitors (NQMs) are deployed by the Ministry for random inspection of road works to monitor quality and also to provide guidance of senior professionals to the field functionaries.

The Government of India has launched PMGSY – II which envisages consolidation of the existing Rural Road Network to improve its overall efficiency as a provider of transportation services for people, goods and services. It also focuses on upgradation of existing selected rural roads (Through Routes and Major Rural Links) based on their economic potential and their role in facilitating the growth of rural market centres and rural hubs. Under PMGSY – II, an overall target of 50,000 km length has been approved

for upgradation and the State specific entitlements have been communicated to all the States.

Performance of poverty alleviation schemes

1328. DR. T. N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to address the problem of poverty in the country which has the highest population of poor in the world;

(b) if so, the details of the targets set and achieved under the schemes for the purpose during last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether the current ongoing schemes have failed to achieve the targets;

(d) whether Government has any plans to review the schemes launched for poverty alleviation in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof along with the steps being taken in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Rural Development, through State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, is implementing major schemes, namely, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) for poverty alleviation by providing wage and self employment in rural areas of the country. MGNREGA aims at enhancing livelihood security of rural households by guaranteeing at least 100 days of wage employment in a year to the adult members of every rural household who is willing to do unskilled work. The NRLM aims at reducing poverty by enabling poor households to access gainful self-employment/skilled wage employment by ensuring appreciable improvement in their livelihoods on a sustainable basis. The Ministry does not set targets for poverty reduction under these schemes.

(d) and (e) The Schemes are reviewed as and when required.

Women participation under MGNREGA

1329. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the grievance redressal mechanism was not shouldering its responsibilities and that the absence of proper amenities continued to discourage women's