

(as per 2001 Census) and above in plain areas. In respect of 'Special Category States' (States of the North-East, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand), the Desert areas, the Tribal (Schedule V) areas and 88 Selected Tribal and Backward districts as identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs/Planning Commission, the objective is to connect eligible unconnected habitations as per Core-Network with a population of 250 persons and above (Census 2001). For most intensive IAP blocks as identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs, the unconnected habitations with population 100 persons and above (as per 2001 census) are eligible to be covered under PMGSY. Up-gradation of selected rural roads to provide full farm to market connectivity is also an objective of the scheme, though not central to it. In addition, PMGSY-II has also been launched for upgradation of existing selected rural roads based on a prescribed criterion to strengthen and to make the rural road-network vibrant.

As per the above mandate of the PMGSY scheme and as reported by the States, there were 1,78,184 nos. of eligible unconnected habitations in the country in Dec, 2000. The Ministry has cleared the proposals to provide connectivity to 1,45,041 nos. eligible unconnected habitations and as informed by the States, roads have been constructed to provide connectivity to 1,12,906 nos. eligible unconnected habitations.

(b) As reported by the States, the connectivity was provided to 10,799 nos. eligible unconnected habitations during the year 2014-15 under PMGSY. The States spent ₹ 16,538 crore during the year 2014-15 for construction and upgradation of rural roads.

(c) and (d) In view of decision on revised funding pattern under PMGSY (60% by Centre and 40% by State) and provision of additional funds for the scheme by Government of India, the Ministry has advised the States to submit new proposals for sanctioning PMGSY roads providing connectivity to the balance eligible unconnected habitations and to complete them latest by March, 2019. This advice issued to the States on 20.11.2015 was reiterated through a Video Conference on 2-3 December, 2015.

Institutional framework for Sagarmala project

2537. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has created any institutional framework for Sagarmala project;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the present status of work on the project; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government for early execution of the project as well as ensuring integrated development of ports and efficient evacuation to and from hinterland?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the approved institutional framework of Sagarmala Programme, National Sagarmala Apex Committee (NSAC) and Sagarmala Coordination & Steering Committee (SCSC) have been constituted and there is provision for setting up Sagarmala Development Company (SDC) at the State level, for constitution of State Sagarmala Committees in maritime States. First meeting of National Sagarmala Apex Committee and Sagarmala Coordination & Steering Committee were held on 05.10.2015 and 01.10.2015 respectively. NSAC has given approval for 12 Early Bird Projects for taking up under the Sagarmala Programme.

(c) A National Perspective Plan (NPP) will identify projects including integrated development of ports and efficient evacuation to and from hinterland.

Development of Mookkaiyur fishery harbour

2538. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is continuing the effort of developing Fishing Harbour in Mookkaiyur, Ramanathapuram District, Tamil Nadu to bring back migrated fishermen to Rameshwaram to settle them in pre 1957 cyclone position; and

(b) if so, what are the steps taken in co-ordination with State Government to modernize the port and equip the fishermen to go for deep sea fishing as part of solution to quarrel between Tamil fishermen and Sri Lankan fishermen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) and (b) As informed by Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, the Detailed Project Report (DPR) submitted by the Government of Tamil Nadu for construction of a new fishing harbour at Mookkaiyur in Ramanathapuram District at a total cost of Rs.112 crore was examined in consultation with the Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fishery, Bangalore. The Government of Tamil Nadu has been requested on 22.04.2015 to complete necessary engineering and economic investigations, model & environment related studies and submit technical & financial proposal together with confirmation on availability of land, environmental clearance and their willingness to contribute 60% cost of the State share for construction of the proposed fishing harbour at Mookkaiyur.