

Ensuring quality in maintenance of rural roads under PMGSY

†2432. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the mechanism evolved by Government to ensure the quality of roads constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY);

(b) whether responsibility for maintenance of roads is entrusted to the construction agency for five years after the completion of road construction work;

(c) if so, how it is ensured that the roads constructed under the schemes are in good condition while handing them over to Government after the period of five years of its construction; and

(d) the punitive mechanism in place against agencies not performing maintenance works and the names of such agencies against whom action has been taken under the provisions of such a mechanism during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV): (a) Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) envisages a three tier Quality Assurance Mechanism to ensure quality of road works during construction. First-tier of this mechanism is in-house quality control at Programme Implementation Unit (PIU) level. Second-tier is structured as an independent quality monitoring at State level through State Quality Monitors (SQMs) in which provision of regular inspection of PMGSY works has been envisaged. The third-tier is an independent monitoring mechanism at the Central level. Under this tier, independent National Quality Monitors (NQMs) are engaged for inspections of PMGSY roads, selected at random. To promote transparency in the Scheme, it is being ensured that independent monitors at the second and the third tier take atleast 10 digital photographs at the work site including one of the field laboratories, for each road work inspected and upload the inspection reports on PMGSY Programme management and Monitoring website *i.e.* Online Management, Monitoring and Accounting System (OMMAS), to facilitate public viewing of quality of road works being executed under the programme. Also the abstract of the said Inspection Report is also uploaded on website.

(b) and (c) PMGSY roads are tendered, awarded and constructed by the State Governments. These roads have a design life of 10 years. As per PMGSY guidelines, maintenance of roads constructed under the programme is the responsibility of the State Governments and all road works are covered under initial five year maintenance contracts entered into along with the construction contract, with the same contractor,

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

as per the Standard Bidding Document. Maintenance funds to service the contract are required to be budgeted by the State Governments and placed at the disposal of the State Rural Roads Development Agencies (SRRDAs) in a separate maintenance account. On expiry of five year post construction maintenance, PMGSY roads are required to be placed under Zonal maintenance contracts consisting of 5 year maintenance including renewal as per cycle, from time to time. Regional Review Meetings (RRMs) are conducted with the nodal departments of the State Governments, at regular intervals as a measure to monitor the progress and for effective implementation of PMGSY scheme in the States. Also, Area Officer visits are organized by the Ministry for physical inspection and verification of all the programmes run by Department of Rural Development including PMGSY. The NQMs also inspect the road works which are under maintenance period during their visits from time-to-time.

(d) As per Programme Guidelines, States are responsible for execution and ensuring the quality of road works under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. The respective State Governments take appropriate action against agencies not performing maintenance works as per the provisions of the Standard Bidding Documents (SBD). State-wise detail of action taken against the contractors in specific cases is not maintained Centrally at the level of the Ministry.

Delay in PMGSY projects

2433. SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the completion of several road projects sanctioned under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) have been delayed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps being taken by Government for completion of the projects in a time bound manner project-wise; and

(d) the status of road projects sanctioned in Kerala under PMGSY, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV): (a) to (c) 'Rural Roads' is a State subject and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is a one-time special intervention of the Central Government to provide rural connectivity, by way of a single all-weather road, to the eligible unconnected habitations in the core network. As per PMGSY programme guidelines, execution of PMGSY projects is the responsibility of the State Governments through State Rural Roads Development Agency (SRRDA) at the State level and Programme Implementation Units (PIUs) at the district level. The reasons for delay in implementation of PMGSY works, as reported by the States, include:-