

Special grants for construction of good rural roads

1591. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state whether Government propose to provide special grants to the States to construct good rural roads with new technology at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is a Central intervention in the rural roads sector of the States. 50% of the cess of High Speed Diesel, levied under the Central Road Fund Act, 2000 is allocated to the States on grant basis each year for construction of rural roads under the PMGSY primarily for providing new connectivity to eligible unconnected habitations.

Good quality all-weather roads are constructed under PMGSY in accordance with design and standards prescribed in the Rural Roads Manual published by the Indian Roads Congress as a special publication (IRC SP; 20:2002).

Funds sought by Himachal Pradesh for drinking water projects

†1592. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme of his Ministry, the Government of Himachal Pradesh had sent a proposal on 31st March, 2002 for granting an amount of Rs. 207.60 crores for the construction of various drinking water supply projects for the uncovered population of 12 districts in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard and the reasons for its lying pending so far; and

(c) by when, a final decision would be taken in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA) : (a) to (c) Water Supply is a State subject. Government of India supports the efforts of the States by releasing funds under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme as per the following criterion for inter-State allocation:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.