

Need to reclassify the districts in Dakshina Kannada and other Western Ghat districts of Karnataka as hilly terrain and accordingly relax the norms under PMGSY-IV for road connectivity therein.-laid

CAPTAIN BRIJESH CHOWTA (DAKSHINA KANNADA): I wish to raise the issue of implementation challenges under PMGSY-IV in Dakshina Kannada and other Western Ghat districts of Karnataka. PMGSY has significantly improved rural connectivity across the country under the leadership of Prime Minister. Thousands of habitations have benefitted through Phases I, II, and III. The rollout of Phase IV with a focus on last-mile and climate-resilient roads is timely and welcome. However, in districts like Dakshina Kannada, the ground reality differs from MIS data. Many habitations marked as 'connected' still lack all-weather, motorable access due to the hilly, forested terrain. These districts are incorrectly classified as 'plain,' despite high rainfall and frequent landslides. Further, the population thresholds exclude small but permanently inhabited clusters that are more than 1.5 km by footpath from a road. I request the Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development to consider reclassifying these districts as 'hilly terrain,' allow ground verification of connectivity, and relax population norms for scattered habitations.