

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3484
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2010
PARAMETERS TO MAINTAIN QUALITY OF ROADS
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the parameters to maintain the quality of roads being constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and the parameter to allocate the funds for new projects under PMGSY to States;
- (b) whether the Government has received complaints regarding use of sub-standard materials and violation of norms in construction of roads and new projects under the scheme during the last three years and current year from States/Union Territories including Dadra and Nagar Haveli;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon, State, Union Territory-wise; and
- (d) the corrective steps taken by the Government to check such irregularities in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN 'ADITYA')

(a): As per the programme guidelines, rural roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) are constructed as per the technical specifications and geometric design standards given in Rural Road Manual and Hill Road Manual of Indian Roads Congress. Out of cess levied on High Speed Diesel (HSD) received in Central Road Fund (CRF), Rs.0.75 per liter is earmarked for PMGSY. After debt servicing, the balance amount of cess share is allocated among States as per formula given by the Planning Commission for allocation of funds. In addition to share of cess, the funds available for the programme out of Plan Assistance, Assistance from the World Bank and Asian Development Bank and loan from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) are also released to the States as per requirement.

(b) & (c): A total of 491 complaints regarding irregularities in the implementation of PMGSY, including use of sub-standard materials and violation of norms in construction of roads, have been received during the last three years and the current year, upto May, 2010. State-wise details of these complaints are given in Annexure. In 185 cases, National Quality Monitors (NQMs) have been deputed through National Rural Roads Development Agency for enquiry and 306 cases have been sent to the State Governments for taking suitable action, including action to be taken against concerned contractors/officials.

(d): Ensuring the quality of the road works is the responsibility of the State Governments who are implementing the programme. A Three Tier Quality Mechanism has been put in place for ensuring the quality of road works under the programme. First Tier is in-house quality control and second tier is independent monitoring at State level. These two tiers are the responsibility of the States implementing the programme. The Third tier is envisaged as an independent monitoring mechanism at the central level. Under this tier, the independent National Quality Monitors (NQMs) are engaged for inspections of roads, selected at random. The NQMs carry out inspections on the basis of guidelines and they are required to make observations about the quality of works in an objective manner, after performing the required laboratory tests, hand field tests or visual observations, as the case may be. Immediately after the visit of NQM is over, the inspection report is handed over to Project Implementation Unit (PIU). If quality of any work is graded as 'Unsatisfactory', the PIU shall ensure that the contractor replaces the material or rectifies the workmanship (as the case may be) within the time period stipulated. The PIUs are also required to furnish Action Taken Reports in such cases. Close monitoring of submission of Action Taken Report is carried out and States are required to take appropriate action in such cases.