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Title: Need to review the guidelines of PMGSY in order to make the development of rural roads more effective.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My 'Zero Hour' submission is in respect of the rights and privileges of Members of Parliament in respect of *Prime Minister's Gram Sadak Yojana* (PMGSY).

The existing guidelines for the implementation of PMGSY are not suitable for prioritizing the roads for development as per the local requirements. The District Rural Road Plan prepared by the consultancy -- it is being prepared by the consultancy and not by the Government -- in association with the officials is not subjected to the scrutiny of the Committee under the Chairmanship of Members of Parliament responsible for evaluating the work under PMGSY.

Earlier, the roads proposed by the Members of Parliament were given due priority. The utility-value fixed for the roads by the officials are not cross-checked by the concerned MP. The proposals given by the MP is considered only on the basis of the utility-value fixed by the officials during the time of road-mapping. At the time of road-mapping, we have no role and nothing is being consulted. As far as we are concerned, PMGSY is for having inter-linking of rural roads, especially, in the remote areas and when they fix the utility-value, it will be very low utility-value as far as the most remote and rural areas are concerned. So, our suggestions and proposals are being negated without any justification, and the only justification that they are saying is that the utility-value is low.

So, my submission is that the local requirements and the special emergent situations are not considered for prioritizing the work. Hence, the decisions of the concerned officials on the basis of the utility-value override the priority proposals given by the MPs. Therefore, the present guidelines are against the principles followed earlier.

Hence, I urge upon the Government of India, especially, the Ministry of Rural Development to change the guidelines so as to make the development of rural roads more effective subject to the proposals of the hon. MPs also. Thank you, Madam.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Madam, we would like to associate with the issue raised by Shri N.K. Premachandran.

HON. SPEAKER: Yes, you can associate.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: It is an important issue, which has been raised by the hon. Member. Therefore, you can associate with the issue raised here.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri M. B. Rajesh, Shri Mullappally Ramchandran, Shri Anto Antony, Dr. A. Sampath, Shri Jose K. Mani, Adv. Joice George and Shri Sankar Prasad Datta are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri N.K. Premachandran.