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PMGSY: Five Years of Roads, Expenditure and Unanswered Numbers

Rural development / infrastructure / federalism | News context: Lok Sabha answer on PMGSY, 28 July 2026 | Published: 18 October 2026

Background and Context

The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) connects unconnected habitations with all-weather roads. Per the answer, PMGSY-IV began in September 2024 with a target of connecting about 25,000 unconnected habitations (population 500+ in plain areas, 250+ in special-category states, 100+ in Left-wing-extremism-affected districts, per Census 2011).

Why in the News

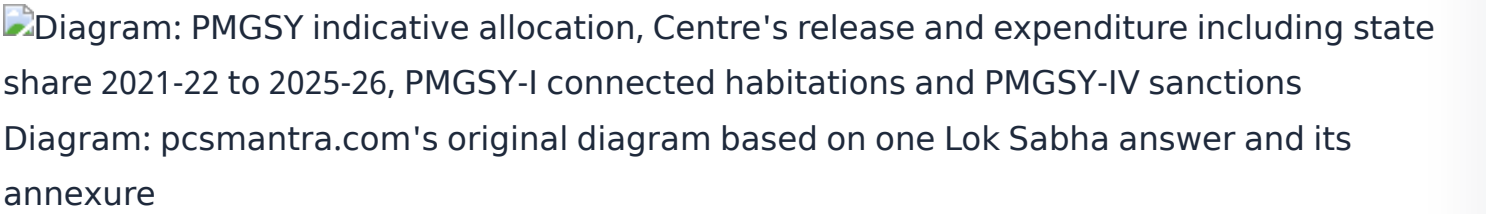
On 28 July 2026, Minister of State for Rural Development Kamlesh Paswan answered Lok Sabha unstarred question 1579. The question asked for roads built and upgraded in the last five years, spending, connected and pending habitations, the number of roads needing quality repair, and funds allocated, released and utilised. Per the answer, 1,31,589 km of

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Accept Decline

Core Concept: Allocation, the Centre's Release and Spending Including the State Share Are Different

The annexure has three separate columns: "indicative allocation", "amount released" and "expenditure including state share". The released amount is the Centre's only, while expenditure includes the state share; so a "utilisation rate" cannot be computed by subtracting or dividing the two.


Diagram: PMGSY indicative allocation, Centre's release and expenditure including state share 2021-22 to 2025-26, PMGSY-I connected habitations and PMGSY-IV sanctions
Diagram: pcsmantra.com's original diagram based on one Lok Sabha answer and its annexure

Key Facts and Figures

Work completed (answer's table)	2021-22: 6,557 roads, 42,015 km, 1,398 bridges; 2022-23: 6,074, 29,721, 1,101; 2023-24: 443, 26,095, 857; 2024-25: 2,835, 18,110, 712; 2025-26: 2,905, 15,648, 1,042. Total 18,814 roads, 1,31,589 km, 5,110 bridges.
Expenditure including state share, Rs crore (answer's table)	27,833; 24,228; 20,301; 18,672; 14,914; table total 1,05,948. The answer's text states the total as "Rs 1,07,942 crore".
Centre's release, Rs crore (annexure totals)	2021-22: 13,952.99; 2022-23: 18,948.60 (the same cell also printed "603" on the next line, which we could not read clearly, so 18,948.60 is taken); 2023-24: 14,007.29; 2024-25: 13,327.03; 2025-26: 7,798.51.
Indicative allocation, Rs crore (annexure totals)	14,052; 17,890; 17,910.00; 18,908.86; 18,906.77.
PMGSY-I and PMGSY-	In PMGSY-I, 1,62,845 (99.7%) of 1,63,275 sanctioned habitations are connected, work on the remaining "401" is ongoing. In PMGSY-IV, states surveyed 41,200 habitations; so far 6,752 road works (10,643

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Checking the Figures: What Matches and What Is Unresolved

What matches (our calculation): in the answer's table, the annual figures for roads (6,557+6,074+443+2,835+2,905 = 18,814), length (1,31,589) and bridges (5,110) sum to the stated totals. The five annual expenditures (27,833+24,228+20,301+18,672+14,914) sum to 1,05,948, the table's total. In the annexure's total row the annual expenditures are 27,833.22, 24,228.27, 20,301.27, 18,672.36 and 14,914.16, matching the table's rounded numbers.

What is unresolved: the answer's text states five-year expenditure as "Rs 1,07,942 crore (including state share)", while the same answer's table and annexure sum to about Rs 1,05,948 crore: a difference of Rs 1,994 crore, with no reason given (our subtraction). In PMGSY-I, 1,63,275 minus 1,62,845 leaves 430 habitations (our subtraction), while the answer says "401": a difference of 29.

What is not comparable: the released amount is the Centre's only, while expenditure includes the state share; so the difference between expenditure of 14,914.16 crore and release of 7,798.51 crore in 2025-26 is not a utilisation rate. Release relative to indicative allocation by our calculation is 99.3% in 2021-22, 105.9% in 2022-23, 78.2% in 2023-24, 70.5% in 2024-25 and 41.2% in 2025-26; this is only the release-to-allocation ratio, not a measure of utilisation or performance, and the answer does not give the reason for the decline.

Significance: Construction, Maintenance and Accountability

The decline in completed work: in the answer's table, annual completed length falls from 42,015 km (2021-22) to 15,648 km (2025-26), and only 443 roads were completed in 2023-24 (6,074 in 2022-23). The answer does not state the reason, and we do not attach any cause such as the start of PMGSY-IV without a source.

Maintenance responsibility: per the answer, under PMGSY guidelines road quality and maintenance are the responsibility of the states/UTs. The central department has quality assessed through National Quality Monitors (NQM) and watches mandatory regular

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maintenance contract; after that, five-year zonal maintenance contracts, budgeted by the states. Payments for two-monthly inspections are performance-based.

Digital monitoring and complaints: the answer mentions OMMAS (real-time monitoring), PMIS for PMGSY-III, GPS-based vehicle tracking on contractors' vehicles, eMARG, and a QR code on every road that can be scanned to complain on the Meri Sadak app or CPGRAMS. These are process measures; the answer has no figure on the number or disposal of complaints.

Challenges and What We Have Not Read

What is not in the answer: question (c) asked for the number of roads needing repair or reconstruction; the answer has the quality-assessment system, not the number. State-wise connected and pending habitations also appear in the answer's text only as PMGSY-I's national figures.

Unresolved points: the Rs 1,07,942 vs Rs 1,05,948 crore expenditure difference; 430 vs 401 remaining habitations; the reason for the decline in releases and completed length after 2022-23; and the annexure's state rows, which we did not sum except for the total row.

What we have not read: we read the official PDF of Lok Sabha unstarred question 1579 (answer and annexure) in full. PMGSY guidelines, the OMMAS and PMGSY dashboards, and a sum check of the state-wise rows were not done.

The Road Ahead

Treat this as dated government information up to 28 July 2026; for the two expenditure totals, remaining habitations and road-quality figures, further parliamentary or portal information will need to be seen.

Distinction of Concepts

Keep four things separate: (1) indicative allocation, the Centre's release and expenditure including state share; (2) sanctioned and connected habitations; (3) the construction process

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Mains View

GS-III: infrastructure and rural connectivity; GS-II: federalism, monitoring of government schemes.

UPSC CSE Mains Style: Original Practice Question

What can and cannot be said about PMGSY's progress from the figures of completed km, the Centre's release and expenditure including state share? What additional data will be needed to evaluate road quality and maintenance?

(Answer in 150 words) | 10 marks

Outline of the Answer

Introduction: PMGSY-I to IV. Main body: the difference between allocation, release and expenditure including state share; the five-year figures and the differences within the answer (1,07,942 vs 1,05,948; 430 vs 401); the unstated reason for declining completed length; states' maintenance responsibility and DLP; digital monitoring (OMMAS, eMARG, QR code); needed data (repair-worthy roads, complaint disposal). Conclusion: do not treat completed length and expenditure as automatic proof of road quality or good maintenance; clarify the answer's numeric differences and test durable progress with detail on repair-worthy roads, monitoring and complaint disposal.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Short answer: per the Lok Sabha answer, 1,31,589 km of roads and 5,110 bridges were completed under PMGSY from 2021-22 to 2025-26; but two totals of expenditure including state share (Rs 1,07,942 and Rs 1,05,948 crore) and two figures of PMGSY-I remaining habitations (430 vs 401) sit in the same answer, and the Centre's release fell from 18,948.60 in 2022-23 to 7,798.51 crore in 2025-26, with the reason not in the answer.

Question: What is the news about PMGSY?

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five years, spending, connected and pending habitations, the number of roads needing quality repair, and funds allocated, released and utilised. Per the answer, 1,31,589 km of roads (18,814 roads and 5,110 bridges) were completed in five years.

Question: Why are allocation, release and spending kept separate in PMGSY?

The annexure has three separate columns: "indicative allocation", "amount released" and "expenditure including state share". The released amount is the Centre's only, while expenditure includes the state share; so a "utilisation rate" cannot be computed by subtracting or dividing the two.

Question: What is the significance of this subject?

The decline in completed work: in the answer's table, annual completed length falls from 42,015 km (2021-22) to 15,648 km (2025-26), and only 443 roads were completed in 2023-24 (6,074 in 2022-23). The answer does not state the reason, and we do not attach any cause such as the start of PMGSY-IV without a source.

Sources

- https://sansad.in/getFile/lsapps/loksabhaquestions/annex/188/AU1579_fm8Swb.pdf - Lok Sabha unstarred question 1579 and answer, 28.07.2026 (official Parliament PDF; annexure)

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