STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ

(2024-2025)

19

EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT)

[Action taken on the recommendations contained in the Fifth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Rural Development)'.]

NINETEENTH REPORT

सत्यमेव जयते

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

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(2024-2025)

(EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT)

[Action taken on the recommendations contained in the Fifth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Rural Development)'.]

Presented to Lok Sabha on 11.08.2025

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 11.08.2025

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ (2024-2025)

Shri Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka -- *Chairperson*

Lok Sabha Members

2. Shri Sandipanrao Asaram Bhumare
3. Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay
4. Shri Raju Bista
5. Shri Vijay Kumar Dubey
6. Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal
7. Shri Bhajan Lal Jatav
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14. Shri Kota Srinivasa Poojary
15. Shri K. Radhakrishnan
16. Shri Ramashankar Rajbhar
17. Shri Omprakash Bhupalsinh *alias* Pavan Rajenimbalkar
18. Shri Parshottambhai Rupala
19. Shri Devendra Singh *alias* Bhole Singh
20. Shri Ganesh Singh
21. Shri Vivek Thakur

Rajya Sabha Members

22. Smt. Geeta *alias* Chandraprabha
23. Shri H. D. Devegowda
24. Shri Samirul Islam
25. Shri Iranna Kadadi
26. Shri Nagendra Ray
27. Shri Anthiyur P. Selvarasu
28. Shri Sant Balbir Singh
29. ---Vacant---
30. ---Vacant---
31. *---Vacant---*

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri D.R. Shekhar	-	Additional Secretary
2. Shri V. K. Shailon	-	Director
3. Smt. Rashmi Roy	-	Deputy Secretary
4. Shri Sudhanshu Shekhar	-	Under Secretary

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (2024-2025) having been authorised by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, present the 19th Report on the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fifth Report of the Standing Committee on Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (18thLok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Rural Development).

2. The Fifth Report was presented to the Lok Sabha on 12.03.2025 and was laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 12.03.2025. Replies of the Government to all the recommendations contained in the Report were received on 10.06.2025.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 08.08.2025.

4. An analysis of the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fifth Report (18th Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given in **Annexure-II**.

NEW DELHI
<u>8th August, 2025</u>
17 Shraavana, 1947 (Saka)

Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Rural Development & Panchayati Raj

CHAPTER I

REPORT

This Report of the Standing Committee on Rural Development (2024-25) deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in their Fifth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Rural Development) for the year 2025-2026.

1.2 The Fifth Report was presented to the Lok Sabha on 12.03.2025 and was laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 12.03.2025. The Report contained 22 Observations/Recommendations.

1.3 Action Taken Replies in respect of all the 22 Observations/Recommendations contained in the Report have been received from the Government. These have been examined and categorised as follows: -

(i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government:

Serial Nos. 1, 3, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 18, 19, 21

Total: 10
Chapter-II

(ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of replies of the Government:

Serial No. NIL

Total: NIL

Chapter-III

(iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee:

Serial No. 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 16, 17, 20, 22

Total: 12

Chapter-IV

(iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited:

Serial No. NIL

Total: NIL

Chapter-V

1.4 The Committee trust that utmost importance will be given to the implementation of the recommendations accepted by the Government. In case where it is not possible for any reasons to implement the recommendations in letter and spirit, the matter shall be reported to the Committee with reasons for non-implementation. The Committee desire that Action Taken Notes on the Observations/ recommendations contained in Chapter I of this Report may be furnished to the Committee within three months of the presentation of this Report.

1.5 The Committee will now deal with action taken by the Government on some of their Observations/Recommendations that require reiteration/merit comments.

I. <u>Fiscal Prudence</u>

<u>Recommendation (Serial No. 2)</u>

1.6 With regard to the fiscal Prudence, the Committee had recommended as under:-

> "The Committee note with concern the significant unspent balances in multiple schemes under the Department of Rural Development (DoRD), which remains a matter of serious concern. As of the latest financial review, the accumulated unspent funds under various schemes are PMAY-G: ₹15,825.35 crore, PMGSY: ₹3,545.77 crore, NSAP: ₹1,813.34 crore, NRLM: ₹2,583.16 crore, MGNREGA: ₹1,627.65 crore and DDU-GKY: ₹1,313.43 crore.
>
> This substantial accumulation of unutilized funds reflects not only weaknesses in fiscal planning within DoRD but also gaps in the implementation mechanisms of rural development schemes. The Committee acknowledge and appreciate the gradual reduction in unspent balances over time. However, the continued non-utilization of funds, along with pending wage and material liabilities and delays in installment releases, adversely affects the efficiency of scheme implementation and hinders the achievement of desired outcomes. Therefore, the Committee strongly recommend that the DoRD develop innovative strategies and adopt a more effective approach to enhance fiscal prudence. It is essential that funds are optimally utilized within the planned timeframes, ensuring that rural development programs function smoothly and effectively contribute to their intended objectives."

1.7 The DoRD in their action taken reply have stated as follows:-

> "MGNREGA:- It is reiterated that the release of funds to States/UTs is an ongoing process, and the Central Government remains committed to ensuring timely availability of funds in

accordance with demand for work generated on the ground. Continuous efforts have been made in order to ensure complete utilization of the available funds by all the States/UTs. An unspent balance of ₹159.49 crore only (0.19%) remained for FY 2024-25, against a Budget Estimate of ₹86,000 crore. However, the Ministry ensures the release of the next instalment only after the utilization of funds against the previous central release.

To ensure optimal fund utilization, the Ministry of Finance has introduced SNA-SPARSH module in FY 2024–25 for "Just-in-Time" release of Material and Administrative funds under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS. This reform enhances fund flow efficiency, transparency, and financial prudence by enabling real-time, demand-based fund disbursement through seamless integration with Public Financial Management System (PFMS), State Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS), and RBI's e-Kuber system. By minimizing idle fund parking and improving cash management, SNA-SPARSH ensures accountability, the timely availability of funds and enhances prudent financial management.

PMAY-G:- Liquidation of Unspent balance have an indirect impact in progress of the scheme. To minimize the Unspent Balances & ensuring better implementation of the scheme, the following steps are being taken by this Ministry:-

i. Micro monitoring of house sanction and completion using latest IT tools and technologies.

ii. Continuous review at the levels of Secretary/ Deputy Director General level.

iii. Focus on completion of those houses where 3rd or 2nd installment of funds has been released

iv. Separate review of States with high target, poor performing States and delayed houses.

v. Timely release of funds as per requirements of States/UTs.

vi. The Aadhar Based Payment System (ABPS) has been integrated with PFMS by linking the beneficiaries' Aadhar numbers with their bank accounts and other financial details in the PFMS database. This allows for a seamless flow of funds from the government to the beneficiaries through ABPS.

PMGSY:- PMGSY is not a DBT module scheme. Under PMGSY, funds are released to States as an advance against the Value of Projects (VoP) sanctioned. As such some amount of funds will always remain with the States. However, to avoid parking of funds, further funds are released to states only when they spend 75% of the previously released funds. The same is tracked through PFMS and fully ensured. Further, the Ministry of Finance has issued fresh guidelines for releasing the funds against expenditure to be called "Just in Time" release through SNA-SPARSH. Once this is fully implemented, the funds will be released against the expenditure and no amount will be available in the bank account of the State/UT. At the beginning of the year, a Mother Sanction will be issued indicating the drawing limit of each State/UT which can be revised upward and downward depending upon the funds flow. The actual release will take place against the bills pushed on PFMS by the State Finance MIS portal called “Integrated Financial Management and Information System(IFMIS)”. In this scenario, no unspent balance will be available with states. Upon onboarding on SNA-SPARSH, the unspent balance available in the account of the state nodal account will have to be returned in the Consolidated Funds of India/State/UTs in the proportion of existing funding pattern based on the pre-defined Standard Operating Procedure. Some States like Assam, Rajasthan, Meghalaya and Chhattisgarh have already on-boarded and others will also follow suit very soon.

DAY-NRLM:- With the implementation of guidelines on "Procedure for Release of funds under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and monitoring utilization of the funds released" by Ministry of Finance, Government of India (GoI), each instalment is now limited to 25% of the allocation and proposal for next instalment can be raised only on spending of 75% of the available funds including State Share. In case State share is not released, proposal for next instalment cannot be processed. All the sub-schemes of DAY-NRLM has been on boarded at PFMS platform in all states and all the expenditures is being done through PFMS. This enhances transparency in transfer of fund and unspent balances at all levels.

In addition to the above, this Division rolled out a new electronic fund management system namely e-FMAS (e-Financial Management and Accounting System) through which expenditure position of the State can be monitored daily-wise. It will help this Division to monitor State-wise expenditure and unspent balance position more vigilantly and guide lagging States for timely utilization of funds.

Further, to control the unspent balance, Finance Review Meetings are held with States to review the progress of the expenditure and resolve any impediments in smooth flow of funds and pace of expenditure. Performance Review Meetings with the States are also held regularly at highest level under the Chairmanship of Secretary (RD) which are attended by the Additional Chief Secretaries/Principal Secretaries of all States.

It is also pertinent to mention that this Division is also in process to implement SNA-SPARSH model in the States to comply the principle of 'just-in-time' release. Once, the implementation of SNA-SPARSH completed with all the States, there not be any unspent balances with the States.

DDU-GKY:- Implementation of SNA-SPARSH under DDUGKY has been initiated which will minimise the accumulation of unutilised funds to a great extent. However recommendations given by the committee have been noted for compliance.

NSAP:- To foster transparency and swiftness in transactions, NSAP pension schemes were included under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) schemes in December 2014. At present, almost all States/ UTs are DBT compliant except Andhra Pradesh and Nagaland. NSAP-PPS, a web portal linked with Pubic Financial Management System (PFMS) as well as UIDAI for Aadhaar authentication/ de-duplication, has been operationalized and all States/UTs have been requested to on-board the portal to serve as a single beneficiary management system. State/UTs can generate the pension payment order monthly by using NSAP-PPS and disburse the pension in the respective account of the beneficiary through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). Fund requirement of the States/UTs is arrived at based on the digitized number of beneficiaries of State cap of beneficiaries, whichever is lower. Further, funds are released to the State/UT in 4 equal tranches and before release of each tranche State/UT concerned has to submit relevant documents/ information in compliance with scheme guidelines/ procedures laid down by DoE. These measures help in optimum utilization of the allocated budget.

As regards financial achievement in FY 2024-25, the entire allocation of Rs.9652 crore was released to States/UTs under NSAP schemes. BE 2025-26 for NSAP is Rs. 9652.00 crore. As there is no change in State/UT wise ceiling of beneficiaries under NSAP schemes, allocated BE 2025-26 appears to be sufficient to meet the requirement."

Further Observations/Comments of the Committee

1.8 During the course of examination of Demands for Grants (2025-26), the Committee were concerned to note the substantial accumulation of unspent balances in almost all the schemes of the Department of Rural Development (DoRD). As on 14.02.2025, PMGSY, NSAP and DDU-GKY had unspent balances to the tune of Rs. 3,545.77 crore, Rs. 1,813.34 crore and Rs. 1,313.43 crore respectively. The unspent balance for MNREGA was Rs. 1,627.65 crore (as on 15.02.2025) and for NRLM it was Rs. 2,583.16 crore (as on 31.01.2025), whereas for PMAY-G, it was as high as Rs. 15,825.35 crore (as on 12.02.2025).

The Committee found the accrual of such unspent balances unacceptable which raised questions over the financial management of the Department. While emphasising the need for optimum utilization of funds within the planned timeframes for the welfare of rural masses, the Committee in their Report had recommended Department of Rural Development (DoRD) to develop innovative strategies and adopt a more effective approach to enhance fiscal prudence. The Action Taken Reply submitted by DoRD states that "the principle of 'Just in Time' release through Single Nodal Agency-State and Public Financial Management System (SNA-SPARSH) module is being strictly followed in respect of all payments to the extent possible" and once, the implementation of SNA-SPARSH is completed it will minimise the unspent balances with all the States. While acknowledging such recent initiatives/measures that have been put in place by the DoRD, the Committee once again urge DoRD to gear up its machinery to keep accelerating their efforts for the redressal of piling up of unspent balances for smooth functioning of rural development programs. Unutilised fund in the scheme can lead to several negative consequences such as distorted picture of public expenditure, missed opportunities for development, potential misappropriation and negative impact on department's financial health.

II. Stagnation of Funds in MGNREGA

Recommendation (Serial No. 4)

1.9 With regard to stagnation of funds in MGNREGA, the Committee had recommended as follows:-

> "The Committee are concerned to note that the Budget Estimates under MGNREGA for the Financial Year 2025-26 have remained unchanged at ₹86,000 crore since the Revised Estimates for 2023-24.
>
> The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) provides a legal right to work for the most economically disadvantaged sections of the rural population who are willing to work. It is a last resort of succour for the jobless section of the society who have no other means of livelihood to feed their family members. The scheme serves as a critical safety net, particularly for those facing extreme poverty and unemployment.
>
> The role and importance of MGNREGA was clearly visible during the corona pandemic times when it acted as a ray of hope for the needy in times of distress. The Committee are unable to comprehend the rationale for not increasing the allocation of fund under MGNREGA since 2023-24. Since the scheme ensured employment to masses of rural poor and deprived section of the

society, it is very much essential that adequate Budgetary Allocation ought to be made for the effective implementation of the Scheme.

The Committee urge that the requirement for fund allocation should be looked afresh as it is an established procedure that MGNREGA being a demand driven scheme, the funds can be raised at RE stage accordingly. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department of Rural Development apprise themselves of the still existing high demand for job under MGNREGA at the ground level more realistically and press upon the Ministry of Finance for increased allocation to MGNREGA."

1.10 The DoRD in their action taken reply have stated as under:-

" The Budget allocation under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA has steadily risen. In the budget allocation for the FY 2024-25, the BE allocated was Rs. 86,000 crore which is the highest ever allocation to the scheme at the BE stage. For the FY 2025-26, BE continues to stand at Rs 86,000 crore, which shows the Government's commitment to provide adequate funds to the scheme.

The release of funds to States/UTs is a continuous and demand-driven process. The Central Government remains committed to ensuring the timely availability of funds based on the actual requirement for work on the ground. As and when additional financial requirements arise, this Ministry continues to engage with the Ministry of Finance for the provision of requisite funds to ensure uninterrupted implementation of the Scheme."

Further Observations/Comments of the Committee

1.11 The Committee are concerned to note that the allocation of funds under MGNREGA have been kept static at Rs. 86,000 crore since the Revised Estimates for 2023-24. Since the scheme ensured employment to masses of rural poor and downtrodden of the society, the Committee are of the view that proper implementation of the scheme totally hinges upon timely and adequate allocation of funds to all the States/UTs. Keeping this in view, the Committee are unable to comprehend the rationale for not increasing the allocation of funds under MGNREGA since 2023-24. MGNREGA being a demand driven scheme, the Committee in their Report had recommended Department of Rural Development (DoRD), that the requirement for fund allocation should be looked afresh and the funds can be raised at RE stage accordingly. In their Action Taken Reply the DoRD states that "The release of funds to States/UTs is a continuous and demand-driven process. The Central Government remains committed to ensuring the timely availability of funds based on the actual requirement for work on the ground. As and when additional financial requirements arise, this Ministry continues to engage with the Ministry of

Finance for the provision of requisite funds to ensure uninterrupted implementation of the Scheme." The Committee find the reply stereotypical in nature, delineating only the provisions of the scheme without addressing the core issue with the seriousness it warrants. The Committee, therefore, feel that there is an immediate need for a much more concerted and synchronised action between the Nodal Ministry and Ministry of Finance to ensure uninterrupted implementation of the scheme. In view of this, the Committee reiterate their recommendation for increased allocation of funds to MGNREGA to achieve its targets.

III. <u>Revision of Wage Rate and Bringing Parity in Wages</u>

<u>Recommendation (Serial No. 5)</u>

1.12 In the context of revision of wage rate and bringing parity in wages, the Committee had recommended as below:-

> "A long-standing concern of the Committee regarding MGNREGA have been the revision of wage rates and the disparity in wages across different States and Union Territories. Despite multiple recommendations on this matter, the Department of Rural Development has not implemented any significant changes.
>
> The Committee emphasize the need for the Department to address this issue with a balanced and pragmatic approach. It is essential to ensure that wage rates are revised appropriately, keeping in mind the rising cost of living and the economic conditions of rural workers.
>
> Furthermore, the current linkage of MGNREGA wages to the Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Laborers (CPI-AL) may not accurately reflect inflation trends. The Committee believe that this index does not fully capture the real impact of inflation, and therefore, the method of wage calculation must be reviewed and updated on a priority basis to reflect actual economic conditions at the ground level.
>
> Since MGNREGA is primarily funded by the Central Government, the Committee recommend that the Ministry of Rural Development consider the implementation of a uniform wage rate across all States and Union Territories. This would help ensure fairness and consistency in wage payments under the scheme.
>
> Therefore, the Committee strongly recommend that the Department of Rural Development take immediate steps to revise MGNREGA wage rates by linking them to a more appropriate pricing index and explore the feasibility of establishing a standardized wage rate under MGNREGS at the national level."

1.13 The following Action Taken Reply has been given by DoRD:-

> "As per Section 6 (1) of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, Central Government may, by notification, specify a separate wage rate for the beneficiary of the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA. The rate is revised on the basis of Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour (CPI-AL).
>
> Government of India has notified the wage rate under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA vide Gazette Notification S.O. 82(E) dated 14th January, 2011 in exercise of the power conferred by Section 6(1) of Mahatma Gandhi NREG Act, using CPI-AL as index and kept the wage rates as these obtained on 1st April, 2009 or Rs.100 whichever is more as the base for indexation for the States.
>
> For protecting the wage against inflation, it has been decided to index the wage rate notified under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA to the Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour (CPI-AL) while maintaining the distinction between the notified wage rate under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA and the minimum wage Act.
>
> However, State Governments can provide wage over and above the wage rate notified by the Central Government. Using the present methodology of wage rate calculation, the central government has notified the wage rate and it has increased by around 5% (average) over the last year and around 29% (average) in the previous 5 years."

Further Observations/Comments of the Committee

1.14 The Committee acknowledge the fact that MGNREGA is a demand driven scheme, but at the same time find that, the rate of wages paid under MGNREGA is inadequate and not in consonance with the rising inflation and cost of living, be it is urban or rural setting. At the same time, the Committee are also deeply concerned about the existing disparity between the wage rate assured in different States/UTs. Taking up works under MGNREGA is a sort of last resort for poor rural populace who do not have any other option of livelihood or job option to utilise but wages of such nominal nature only discourage them and propel them to migrate and seek work in areas giving better remuneration. Therefore, the Committee have strongly recommended Department of Rural Development (DoRD) to take immediate steps to revise MGNREGA wage rates by linking them to a more appropriate pricing index and explore the feasibility of establishing a standardized wage rate under MGNREGS at the national level. However, the action taken reply furnished by the DoRD in this regard is still of the same mould as earlier. The Committee do not approve the stereo type reply of the Government stating that Section 6

(1) of MGNREGA and the procedure for the calculation of present wage rates based on Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour (CPI-AL) and the State/UTs were allowed to provide wage over and above the wage rate notified by the Central Government. The Committee do not find their reply helpful in any way to resolve the issues of revision of wage rates and disparity of wages under MGNREGA and expect from the DoRD to review it earnestly and furnish positive reply in this regard. It is essential to ensure that wage rates are increased appropriately by linking it with an index commensurate with national inflation on the one hand and bringing parity in wages on the other hand for benefitting MGNREGA beneficiaries across all the States/UTs urgently. Thus, in light of the above rationale, the Committee once again emphasize the need for the Department to address both the issue with a balanced and pragmatic approach and also make a strong appeal to review its stand and bring onboard all the stakeholders so as to increase the wage rates at the earliest to achieve the main aim of the scheme i.e. to enhance livelihood security in rural areas and at the same time devise a innovative mechanism to notify a unified wage rate under MGNREGA across the country to end the disparity across States/UTs for good, particularly when the Scheme is mostly funded by the Centre.

IV. Wage and Material Pendencies under MGNREGA

Recommendation (Serial No. 6)

1.15 Concerning the wage and material pendencies under MGNREGA, the Committee had made the following recommendation:-

> "The Committee are concerned about the persistent delays in the disbursement of the Centre's share of funds under the wage and material components of MGNREGA across multiple States and Union Territories. As per the information provided by the Department of Rural Development, as of 15.02.2025, the pending liabilities stand at ₹12,219.18 crore in wages, ₹11,227.09 crore in material components and total pending liabilities are ₹23,446.27 crore. This accounts for 27.26% of the current budget, meaning that more than one- fourth of the allocated funds will be used to clear previous years' dues. Consequently, the actual working budget for the current financial year is reduced to ₹62,553.73 crore, significantly limiting the scheme's capacity to function effectively and meet its primary objective of preventing rural distress and ensuring livelihood security.
>
> The Committee find accrual of such liabilities as severe impediments hampering the beneficiaries' plight. While the Committee acknowledge the reasons cited by the Department of Rural Development, such as non-receipt of required documents, these delays in wage payments and fund disbursement create significant hardships for rural workers. Given the scale of MGNREGA, which serves millions

of job cardholders across the country, such financial bottlenecks not only impact rural livelihoods but also discourage the most vulnerable sections of society from seeking employment under the scheme.

This, in turn, increases distress migration to urban areas in search of alternative employment opportunities. Therefore, the Committee urge the Department of Rural Development to take immediate steps to ensure the timely release of the Centre's share of funds under wages and materials. The Department must strengthen coordination with State Governments and adopt effective measures to prevent further delays in disbursement."

1.16 In regard to the above recommendation, the DoRD in their action taken reply have stated as below:-

"The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA), 2005 is a demand driven wage employment programme. Fund release to the States/UTs is a continuous and dynamic process. Funds are released to the States/UTs on the basis of "agreed to" Labour Budget (LB) and performance of the States/UTs during the financial year. Funds are released to the States/UTs normally in two tranches with more than one instalment in one tranche based on agreed Labour Budget (LB), opening balance, pending liabilities of the previous financial year, if any, and overall performance. The first instalment of first tranche is released to the States/UTs in 1st half of April month of the financial year. The 2nd Tranche is released on submission of proposal in the prescribed format by the State and subject to fulfilment of all the prescribed conditions. The proposal can be submitted after a State / UTs has utilized 75 percent of the total available funds. If the proposal for 2nd Tranche is submitted after 30th September, then the Audit Report and Audited UC of the previous financial year are also required. Quantum of funds to be released as part of second tranche depends upon the performance of the State/UTs.

The Central Government has cleared all pending wage liabilities (₹17,251.21 crore) of FY 2024–25 across all States and Union Territories and fund is also being released to all States/UTs for meeting wage payment requirements for the ongoing financial year 2025–26 in a phased manner. It may be noted that the release of funds to States/UTs is a continuous and demand-driven process. The Central Government remains fully committed to ensuring the timely availability of funds in accordance with the demand for work generated on the ground under MGNREGA."

<u>Further Observations/Comments of the Committee</u>

1.17 MGNREGA has long been plagued with financial troubles. The Committee were surprised with revelation that an amount of Rs. 12,219.18 crore was lying as pending wages while Rs. 11,227.09 crore remained uncleared against the material component for a welfare oriented schematic intervention like MGNREGA. This accounts for 27.26% of the current budget, meaning that more than one- fourth of the allocated funds will be used to clear previous years' dues. Consequently, the actual working budget for the current financial year is reduced to ₹62,553.73 crore. The Committee feel that both the aspect of MGNREGA, i.e. a demand driven nature of the scheme and creation of assets under the scheme are severely hampered through such pendencies. While being deeply concerned with the adverse impact of such pendency and its impact on upliftment of rural labourers, the Committee had strongly recommended DoRD to take immediate steps to ensure the timely release of the Centre's share of funds under wages and materials, strengthen coordination with State Governments and adopt effective measures to prevent further delays in disbursement. The response furnished by DoRD is lacking of any concrete measure that have been taken and furthermore, it is silent particularly upon the existing pendencies under material components. Simply, it has again demonstrated the same old stereotypical approach by stating that "funds are released to the States/UTs is a continuous and demand-driven process". It is unfathomable as to how a specific query of the Committee can be sidelined and remained silent and evasive on such important matter. Therefore, the Committee strongly reiterate their recommendation for the eradication of pending liabilities under MGNREGA through robust measures of financial prudence at the earliest.

V. <u>Aadhaar-Based Payment System under MGNREGA</u>

<u>Recommendation (Serial No. 7)</u>

1.18 With regard to the Aadhaar-based payment system under MGNREGA, the Committee had recommended as under:-

> "The Aadhaar-Based Payment System (ABPS) facilitates the direct transfer of wages to the bank accounts of unskilled workers under MGNREGA, even in cases where beneficiaries frequently change bank accounts or fail to update their new account details with the concerned Programme Officer. This system has been effective in eliminating fraudulent claims and ensuring that only genuine beneficiaries receive wage payments.
>
> The Committee acknowledge and appreciates the role of ABPS in enhancing transparency and efficiency. However, the Committee firmly believe that this technological intervention should not be made mandatory due to operational challenges that have led to exclusions of

genuine beneficiaries. In several instances, workers have been wrongfully removed from the system due to discrepancies between their Aadhaar details and job card records.

Therefore, the Committee recommend that the Department of Rural Development ensure that the Aadhaar-Based Payment System remains optional and that alternative payment mechanisms are made available. This would ensure that workers without Aadhaar or those facing biometric authentication issues continue to receive their rightful wages without compromising the integrity of the scheme."

1.19 The DoRD in their action taken reply have stated as follows:-

"ABPS is a route for a payment instruction to follow and finally payment gets credited into the bank account of the beneficiary linked to Aadhaar at last time by the beneficiary. Earlier, ABPS (Aadhaar Based Payment System) conversion was done by MoRD through NPCI Mapper uploads. Now, this functionality is available at the block and GP levels in NREGASoft, enabling Aadhaar authentication and ABPS conversion directly by POs. This streamlined process has removed conversion bottlenecks, with Program Officers now performing daily updates at the block level.

As of now, 11.78 crore Aadhaar (99.58%) have been seeded in NREGASoft, and 11.52 crore workers (97.77%) are ABPS-enabled. Nearly 99.9% of wage payments are made via DBT, with support 95% through ABPS as of March 2025. It is also informed that if any transaction returns from NPCI/Bank with any valid reason for rejection under ABPS then that transaction can be regenerated from NACH (National Automated Clearing House) payment mode. Therefore, there already exists an alternative solution at NREGASoft in the form of NACH Payment mode (i.e. Account Based) for the regeneration of failed transactions under ABPS. The effectiveness of ABPS is evident from the fact that from 1st january,2024 till 25th Feburary,2025 mere 0.41% of transactions have been rejected with reasons such as no such account or account closed in case of ABPS system, whereas the rate of rejection was as high as 8.50% in case of NACH payment mode. This figure clearly demarcates that ABPS system ensures greater transparency and ensures on time payment to the workers.

Further, the Ministry has also strengthened the verification procedures to ensure that all job cards issued are genuine and meet the required criteria. For this, a detailed SOP has been issued to all States/UTs for deletion and restoration of jobcards. The SoP outlines standardized procedures to ensure compliance with the MGNREG Act, promoting transparency, accountability and fairness in the deletion or restoration of job cards and workers.

The Ministry continues monitoring and addressing delays and exclusions due to unseeded Aadhaar, tech issues, or lack of awareness. It is intensifying training, awareness efforts, and KYC compliance, while also upgrading tech and grievance redressal systems. The Committee's recommendation to mandate ABPS supports transparency and efficiency, and the Ministry remains committed to inclusivity, ensuring timely and secure wage disbursement under MGNREGS."

Further Observations/Comments of the Committee

1.20 The Committee acknowledge and appreciate the usage of Aadhaar-Based Payment System (ABPS) in enhancing greater transparency and efficiency by eliminating fraudulent claims and ensures on time payment to the workers. However, the Committee opine that this technological intervention should not be made mandatory due to operational challenges that have led to exclusions of genuine beneficiaries. Keeping this in view, the Committee recommended Department of Rural Development (DoRD) that ABPS remains optional and alternative payment mechanisms are made available to ensure that the workers have not been wrongfully removed from the system due to discrepancies between their Aadhaar details and job card records. The Committee therefore, feel that any mechanism to be activated needs to take care of all the challenges and till the time all the major hurdles associated with ABPS are not tackled sufficiently, including creation of awareness among the beneficiaries, the system should not be made mandatory. Alternative mechanism should always operate side by side to ensure that the primary goal of MGNREGA to provide wages does not get defeated due to lack of proper implementation of technology. Hence, the Committee once again urge DoRD to strike a fine balance between the usage of technology and sorting out the glitches associated with it immediately to ensure timely and secure wage disbursement under MGNREGA.

VI. Number of Guaranteed Workdays under MGNREGA

Recommendation (Serial No. 8)

1.21 With regard to the number of guaranteed workdays under MGNREGA, the Committee had recommended as under:-

"While examining the subject of MGNREGA and during their deliberations, the Committee were apprised about demands from various quarters of the country regarding the increase in the number of days from 100. The Committee also take cognizance of the provision of the scheme through which State Governments can request an additional 50 days of work under MGNREGA to meet the need for work in cases of exigencies arising out of natural calamities.

The Committee take note of this existing provision and is of the view that MGNREGA is a last 'fall-back' option for numerous rural people, and the amount of expenditure under it also elicits a keen interest in the scheme by the poor and marginalized. The scheme needs to be revamped, keeping in view the changing times and emerging challenges.

The Committee are of the firm opinion that the 'need of the hour' is to further diversify the nature of works under MGNREGA in such a manner and through such mechanisms that could also propel the number of guaranteed working days under MGNREGA to at least 150 days from the current 100 days. In light of this, the Committee strongly recommend the Department of Rural Development to review the scheme of MGNREGA in such a way that could ensure an increase in the number of guaranteed days of work from 100 to 150 days."

1.22 The DoRD in their action taken reply furnished to the Committee have stated as follows:-

"Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA), 2005, is an Act to provide for the enhancement of livelihood security of the households in rural areas of the country by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

The Ministry mandates the provision of an additional 50 days of wage employment (beyond the stipulated 100 days) to every Scheduled Tribe Household in a forest area, provided that these households have no other private property except for the land rights provided under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006.

In addition to this, there is a provision for providing up to an additional 50 days of wage employment in a financial year in drought/natural calamity-affected notified rural areas. Further, as per Section 3(4) of the Act, the State Governments may make provision for providing additional days of employment beyond the period guaranteed under the Act from their own funds. States like Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Kerala etc. have a provision to provide over and above 100 days of wage employment from their own resources."

<u>Further Observations/Comments of the Committee</u>

1.23 The Committee opine that a long standing demand from various quarters of the country has been that of increasing of days of guaranteed work under MGNREGA from the existing 100 days. The Act was notified in 2005 and the entire country was covered by April, 2008. Almost 17 years have passed

since the full implementation of the Act and "much water has flown under the bridge" by now. With each passing year, the need for change has been felt in the Act so as to keep pace with the changing demands of the time. The burgeoning population of the country with majority residing in the villages and a huge number of rural populace still trying to fulfill the basic necessity, guaranteed days of work, perhaps, is a huge solace for such class of society. Keeping this in view, the Committee recommended Department of Rural Development (DoRD) to further diversify the nature of works under MGNREGA in such a manner and through such mechanisms that could also propel the number of guaranteed working days under MGNREGA to at least 150 days from the current 100 days. The Committee once again find the reply of DoRD routine and generic in nature, mere highlighting the formulated provisions of the Act. Although the State Governments may make provisions for additional days, still the Committee are of the firm opinion that the mandatory increase in number of guaranteed days should be brought about by the DoRD by moving an amendment in the Act in order to make it applicable for the entire country, so that the demand of needy beneficiaries may not hinge upon the will of the State Governments. Moreover, the yardstick needs to be rationalised through the efforts of DoRD and considering the long period since the enactment of MGNREGA, perhaps an upward revision in the guaranteed number of days of work is much due at the Central level itself. Therefore, the Committee reiterate the earlier recommendation and call upon the DoRD to relook in the issue and suitably increase the number of guaranteed days of work under MGNREGA from the present 100 days as a sincere step by the Ministry to enhance the livelihood security for the rural populace.

VII. <u>Backlog of Pending Houses under PMAY-G</u>

<u>Recommendation (Serial No. 12)</u>

1.24 In the context of backlog of pending houses under PMAY-G, the Committee had recommended as below:-

> "The Committee note that the Ministry of Rural Development has been implementing the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G) since April 1, 2016, as one of the Government's flagship schemes aimed at achieving the vision of 'Housing for All by 2024'. The overall target of the scheme was to construct 2.95 crore houses by 2024, which included 2.04 crore houses from the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011-based Permanent Wait List (PWL) and 0.91 crore houses from the finalized Awaas+ 2018 survey list.
>
> The Union Cabinet, in its meeting on August 9, 2024, approved the continuation of PMAY-G for five more years to construct 2 crore additional houses, which would cover the remaining eligible households from the SECC 2011 PWL and saturation of the updated Awaas+ (2018) list. Additionally, the houses targeted for completion by

March 31, 2024, under the previous phase, must now be completed by March 2025, as per the Cabinet's approval.

While the Committee appreciate the extension of PMAY-G, it expresses serious concern over the allocation of houses under the extended phase. As of October 22, 2024, a total of 2.66 crore houses have been completed, while 29 lakh houses remain pending. A backlog of 1,46,54,267 houses still exists, including 62,54,267 from the SECC-2011 list and approximately 84 lakh from the Awaas+ list. The 2 crore houses approved under the extended phase already account for this backlog of 1.46 crore houses, meaning that, in reality, only 53.45 lakh new houses have been allocated under this phase.

The Committee strongly recommend that the total number of houses planned under the extended phase of PMAY-G be increased to at least 3.46 crore, accounting for both the backlog of 1.46 crore houses and an additional 2 crore houses to ensure fresh allocations beyond the existing backlog. Additionally, given the rise in construction costs and inflationary pressures, the Committee recommend that the per-unit cost of houses under PMAY-G be increased to ₹4 lakh to ensure that beneficiaries receive quality housing that meets minimum standards of safety and durability.

During the course of its examination, the Committee was informed that all houses under the scheme will only be completed by 2029, a timeline the Committee consider highly concerning, as it will cause unnecessary hardship to intended beneficiaries. The Committee also note that in the meantime, the Awaas+ 2024 survey, conducted through the Awaas+ 2024 Mobile App, is being used to identify additional eligible rural households under modified exclusion criteria. As of February 14, 2025, 80,32,731 households have been surveyed by States and Union Territories, raising expectations that many more rural families will be able to secure pucca houses under the scheme.

Given the scale of delays and the existing backlog, the Committee urge the Ministry to take urgent and proactive measures to identify and address the causes of delays. It is imperative to ensure continuous coordination with States and Union Territories to facilitate the timely completion of incomplete and pending houses within the revised deadline. The successful implementation of PMAY-G is crucial for achieving universal housing coverage, and the Committee strongly emphasize that all necessary actions must be taken without further delays to prevent hardship to rural beneficiaries."

1.25 In their action taken reply to the above recommendation, DoRD have stated as follows:-

“The PMAY-G had an initial target of construction of 2.95 crore houses during FY 2016-24. The initial target was arrived at on the basis of the eligible households as per the Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011database, after verification by the Gram Sabhas, as of 31.03.2016.However, the States and Union Territories (UTs) have remanded the ineligible households and as of 31.03.2024, a total of 2.11 crore households remained as eligible in the SECC 2011 based Permanent Wait List (PWL) of the PMAY-G. The Ministry had allocated target of 2.04 crore houses from the Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011 based Permanent Wait List (PWL) and 0.91 crore houses from the finalized Awaas+ 2018 survey list till 31.03.2024.

With the approval of the Union Cabinet for implementing the next phase of the PMAY-G during FY 2024-25 to 2028-29, the existing SECC 2011 PWL of all States have been saturated with overall target allocation of 2.11 crore houses. In addition, the Ministry has allocated overall target of 3.84 crore houses till 23.04.2025, including target of 0.89 crore houses allocated during FY 2024-25 from the new allocation of 2 crore houses approved by the Union Cabinet. The finalized Awaas+ 2018 survey list of 22 States and Union Territories is already saturated. In addition, a proposal is under consideration for saturating the remaining States by allocation of balance houses/ beneficiaries in Awaas+ 2018 survey list as target during FY 2025-26. A total of 0.62 crore houses is to be allocated to the 10 remaining unsaturated States to saturate their existing Awaas+ 2018 survey list.

The Awaas+ 2024 survey window is open till 30.04.2025. After saturation of existing SECC 2011 PWL and finalized Awaas+ 2018 survey list, approximately a target of 54 lakh houses would remain to be allocated from the Awaas+ 2024 survey lists during this phase of the PMAY-G (till FY 2028-29).

The recommendations of the Standing Committee for increasing target of this phase of the PMAY-G from 2 crore houses to 3.46 crore houses, have been noted. However, there is no proposal under consideration of the Ministry to increase the target for this phase of the PMAY-G (FY 2024-29).

In addition, the unit assistance under the PMAY-G is Rs. 1.20 lakh in plain areas and Rs. 1.30 lakh in Hill States (Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh) and North Eastern States. At present, there is no proposal for revision in the existing unit assistance provided under the PMAY-G.

The major shortcomings faced till date by the PMAY-G are delay in construction of houses due to COVID-19 induced restrictions, delay on part of States/ UTs in releasing of Central & State Share from State Treasury to State Nodal Account of PMAY-G, delay in allotment of land to landless beneficiaries by the States/UTs, cases of unwillingness of beneficiaries, permanent migration, disputed succession, unavailability of building materials and at times General/ Assembly/ Panchayat elections.

The Ministry is taking the following steps to ensure timely completion of houses under PMAY-G:

i. Regular review of progress at the level of Ministry.

ii. Launch of dedicated PMAY-G analytic Dashboard for monitoring and supervision of the scheme.

iii. Timely allocation of targets to the States/UTs and release of adequate funds.

iv. Regular follow ups with the State to ensure release of central and state share of funds and provision of land to landless beneficiaries in rural areas.

v. Awards to the best performing States/UTs, Districts based on performance index dashboard, thereby creating healthy competition and motivation among the States/UTs for achieving the set targets."

<u>Further Observations/Comments of the Committee</u>

1.26 The Committee had noted the issue of backlog of pending houses within the stipulated deadlines under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana- Gramin(PMAY-G) was a long standing one and required an immediate attention without any further delay. Increase in per-unit assistance under PMAY-G which has remained static for a considerable period of time had also been a long standing demand brought before the Committee on numerous occasion during their deliberations. The Committee had strongly recommended that the total number of houses planned under the extended phase of PMAY-G be increased to at least 3.46 crore, accounting for both the backlog of 1.46 crore houses and an additional 2 crore houses to ensure fresh allocations beyond the existing backlog. Additionally, given the rise in construction costs and inflationary pressures, the Committee had also recommended that the per-unit cost of houses under PMAY-G be increased to ₹4 lakh to ensure that beneficiaries receive quality housing that meets minimum standards of safety and durability. Responding to the recommendations, DoRD in their Action Taken Reply have detailed the existing provisions under the Scheme and have submitted that at present there is no proposal under consideration to increase the target for the extended phase of the PMAY-G (FY 2024-29) and also reiterated that at present , there is no proposal for revision in the existing unit assistance provided under the PMAY-G. The Committee still feel that more cohesive approach and proper synergy between all stakeholders is required to achieve the set target as well as the intended objective of the said Yojana. The Committee also feel that a genuine demand of the beneficiaries who are facing hard time to construct a house with such meagre assistance amount under

PMAY-G has not been addressed. Therefore, the Committee once again urge the DoRD to take urgent and proactive measures to identify and address the causes of delays coupled with suitable hike in per unit assistance under PMAY-G to help the intended beneficiaries to complete the construction of their houses at a faster rate.

VIII. <u>Pending Projects under PMGSY</u>

<u>Recommendation (Serial No. 13)</u>

1.27 With regard to pending projects under PMGSY, the Committee in this regard had recommended as under:-

> "The Committee note that the progress and development of the entire country is heavily dependent on robust rural connectivity. The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) was launched with the objective of providing all- weather road connectivity to unconnected habitations, thereby boosting rural infrastructure and economic development. However, it has been observed that a significant number of projects under PMGSY remain incomplete within their designated timeframe, leading to delays in infrastructure development and the benefits reaching the intended beneficiaries.
>
> Such delays even cause an escalation in the project cost due to the inflationary aspect affecting the expenditure on raw materials. Rural roads is a State subject, and the responsibility for the execution and maintenance of PMGSY projects lies with the State Governments, who serve as the implementing authorities. While the Committee acknowledge this, they emphasize the need for stronger coordination mechanisms to ensure the timely release of funds by State Governments, enabling smoother project execution.
>
> Additionally, the Committee note that delays in obtaining clearances from various Ministries, such as the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, have further prolonged the implementation of many PMGSY projects. This bureaucratic bottleneck has been a significant hurdle in the timely execution of road construction projects, affecting the rural populace who rely on improved connectivity for economic and social mobility.
>
> In light of the above facts, the Committee recommend that the Department of Rural Development (DoRD) take proactive measures to expedite the completion of pending PMGSY projects by ensuring effective coordination with State Governments, streamlining approval processes, and facilitating better convergence with other Ministries. The Committee stress that it is imperative for the DoRD to address these issues on a priority basis to ensure that PMGSY projects are

completed within stipulated timelines and deliver their intended benefits to rural communities."

1.28 The DoRD in their action taken reply have stated as below:-

"The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) aims to provide all-weather road connectivity to unconnected habitations in rural areas. Over the years, significant progress has been made under PMGSY-I, PMGSY-II, and PMGSY-III. However, certain projects remain pending due to various challenges such as land acquisition issues, difficult terrain, contractor delays, and legal hurdles. The Ministry remains committed to completing all pending projects under PMGSY within the stipulated timelines. With continuous monitoring, policy flexibility, and strategic interventions, efforts are being made to overcome the existing challenges and ensure seamless rural road connectivity across the country.

The progress of implementation of rural roads under PMGSY is regularly reviewed by way of Regional Review Meetings (RRMs), the Performance Review Committee (PRC)Meetings, Pre-Empowered /Empowered Committee Meetings with the States. At District level, the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) headed by a Member of Parliament (LS) monitors the implementation of various schemes of Government of India including PMGSY. In addition to this, special review meetings/monthly review meetings are also held by Secretary/Additional Secretary/Joint Secretaries, Ministry of Rural Development with Chief Secretaries/ Principal Secretaries of the States. In these meetings, hand holding of the State is done and efforts are made to remove the obstacles.

Further, the Ministry of Rural Development has taken the following initiatives to ensure completion of the sanctioned PMGSY Projects within the timeline prescribed in the programme guidelines:

i. The Operational Manual of the PMGSY has been amended to ensure that all works sanctioned under the scheme commence on the ground within 72 days from the date of sanction.

ii. States have been requested to augment their executing capacity and contracting capacity, and their compliance in this regard is regularly reviewed.

iii. Bidding document provisions have been rationalised.

iv. Training is being imparted to field engineers and contractors, as well as their staff, for capacity building.

v. Information Technology is being utilised for monitoring the progress of work."

Further Observations/Comments of the Committee

1.29 The Committee noted that the progress and development of the entire country is very much dependant on the robust connectivity to every corner of the country. This scheme is aimed at this very aspect but somehow or the other it has been witnessed over a period of time that the projects under PMGSY do not get completed within the set time-frame. Such delays even cause the escalation in the project cost due to the inflationary aspect affecting the expenditure in the raw materials. It has been also witnessed that the nodal agencies of the projects fail to get requisite clearances from different Ministries like forests which also have a prolonging effect on the completion of PMGSY projects. In light of the above facts, the Committee with profound concern recommended DoRD take proactive measures to expedite the completion of pending PMGSY projects by ensuring effective coordination with State Governments, streamlining approval processes, and facilitating better convergence with other Ministries. The Committee also stressed that it is imperative for the DoRD to address these issues on a priority basis to ensure that PMGSY projects are completed within stipulated timelines and deliver their intended benefits to rural communities. The DoRD in their Action Taken Reply have stated that "certain projects remain pending due to various challenges such as land acquisition issues, difficult terrain, contractor delays, and legal hurdles. The Ministry remains committed to complete all pending projects under PMGSY within the stipulated timelines. With continuous monitoring, policy flexibility, and strategic interventions, efforts are being made to overcome the existing challenges and ensure seamless rural road connectivity across the country". The Committee acknowledge and appreciate the efforts being undertaken by the DoRD in this regard. However, the Committee still emphasize the need for stronger coordination mechanisms to ensure the timely release of funds by State Governments, enabling smoother project execution and at the same time, more innovative approach and proper synergy between all stakeholders is also required to remove all bottlenecks for timely execution of road construction projects. Therefore, the Committee reiterate the earlier recommendation and call upon the DoRD to take efficacious efforts to ensure the completion of targets under PMGSY with full alacrity.

IX. Road Survey under PMGSY-IV

Recommendation (Serial No. 16)

1.30 With regard to the road survey under PMGSY-IV, the Committee had recommended as under:-

> "The Committee note that the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-IV (PMGSY-IV) has been launched for the financial years 2024-25 to 2028-29, with a total outlay of Rs. 70,125 crore (Central Share:

Rs. 49,087.50 crore, State Share: Rs. 21,037.50 crore). Under this scheme, 25,000 unconnected habitations with a population size of 500+ in plains, 250+ in NE & Hill States/UTs, special category areas (Tribal Schedule V, Aspirational Districts/Blocks, Desert areas), and 100+ in LWE-affected districts will be covered as per the 2011 Census. It is proposed that 62,500 km of all-weather roads will be provided to these unconnected habitations. Additionally, the construction of required bridges along the alignment of these roads will also be undertaken.

The Committee, however, express concern that the PMGSY-IV road survey is currently based on the outdated 2011 Census, which does not reflect the present population, settlement expansions, and evolving infrastructure needs. Since the new Census has not yet been conducted, the survey lacks an accurate picture of ground realities, leading to ineligible habitations receiving priority while genuine beneficiaries are overlooked.

The Committee therefore recommend that, to ensure equitable rural connectivity, the road survey under PMGSY-IV should be revised based on the latest available population data or an interim assessment. This will help identify true beneficiaries, address infrastructural gaps, and ensure that roads are allocated fairly to areas most in need.

Furthermore, the Committee strongly recommend that the local Member of Parliament (MP) must be consulted before the survey, and each survey must be vetted and approved by the local parliamentary representative. If the authorities fail to do so, it would raise serious concerns about the transparency and inclusivity of the survey process. The Committee emphasize that parliamentary oversight is crucial in ensuring that the road network benefits those who need it the most and that no eligible habitation is left out due to bureaucratic lapses or outdated data."

1.31 The DoRD in their action taken reply have stated as follows:-

"The CCEA has approved PMGSY-IV with the following stipulations/ norms:-

"Construction of 62,500 Km of all-weather roads (single lane) to provide connectivity to about 25,000 unconnected habitations of population size 500+ in plains, 250+ in NE & Hill States/ UTs, special category areas (Tribal Schedule V, Aspirational Districts/ Blocks, Desert areas), and 100+ in LWE affected districts, as per Census 2011".

Further, Programme guidelines of PMGSY provide that the population of all habitations within a radius of 500 meters (1.5 km of path distance in case of Hills) may be clubbed together to determine the population size. In the block bordering the international boundary in the hill States (as identified by Department of Home Affairs), however, all habitations within a path distance of 10 km may be treated as a cluster for this purpose. This cluster approach would enable the provision of connectivity to a larger number of Habitations, particularly in the Hill/ Mountains areas.

As per the PMGSY-IV norms, the District Rural Roads Block and District level has to be prepared, based on the conducted surveys to identify habitations through the Gram Sadak Survey App, and placed before the District Panchayats. In all these stages the suggestions and proposals from Hon'ble Members of Parliament are to be given due importance.

Ministry of Rural Development vide letter dated 29.01.2025 (English) and 10.02.2025 (Hindi) (Copy Attached at reply to recommendation Serial No. 14) has directed States/ UTs that during the survey process itself, the Project Implementation Unit (PIUs) should apprise the Hon'ble Members of Parliament (both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha as per PMGSY norms) regarding the ongoing survey and give due consideration to their suggestions for inclusion of habitations in DRRP and CNCPL as per the eligibility norms of the programme, para 5.5 of the programme guidelines mention the following:-

5.5 After the CNCPL is prepared and verified it shall be placed before the district Panchayat. The Member of Parliament/ MLA shall be given a copy of the CNPL and their suggestions and the suggestions of lower level Panchayati Raj Institutions shall be given fullest consideration by the District Panchayat while according its approval.

The suggestion of the Hon'ble Members of Parliament regarding the eligible habitations should be duly recorded in MP-I format before submission of proposals to district Panchayat for the approval. This will ensure that the eventual selection of the habitations is comprehensive and it strengthens the planning and implementation under the programme.

Further, this ministry vide letter dated 15.03.2025 has directed the States/UTs to circulate the letter dated 29.01.2025 and 10.02.2025 along with a copy of PMGSY guidelines (English and Hindi) to all Hon'ble Member of Parliament for kind information."

Further Observations/Comments of the Committee

1.32 One of the issue that arose before the Committee was that of the base upon which the current PMGSY beneficiaries have been selected. At present, the beneficiaries listed under PMGSY are on the basis of deprivation parameters under Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC, 2011). It has been

observed by the Committee that a long period has since elapsed and within the same family of beneficiaries, newer generations of beneficiaries have cropped up. This development leads to ineligible habitations receiving priority while true beneficiaries are overlooked. In view of this scenario, the Committee feel that this issue acquires great relevance and hence recommended DoRD that the road survey under PMGSY-IV should be revised based on the latest available population data or an interim assessment. This will help identify genuine beneficiaries, address infrastructural gaps, and ensure that roads are allocated fairly to areas most in need. The response furnished by DoRD in their Action Taken Reply is lacking of any concrete measure that have been taken and furthermore, it is silent particularly upon conducting the road survey under PMGSY-IV based on the latest available population data to identify genuine beneficiaries. This certainly seems to be a grey area and merits a pragmatic and practical solution. The Committee firmly believe that the objective of the scheme will remain unfulfilled if habitations remained left behind after the culmination of this scheme. Hence, it becomes necessary that the Department of Rural Development ponders over this issue and review their policy while approaching the Ministry of Finance to introduce a suitable new vertical in their domain for the inclusion of habitations as per latest available population data. Keeping this in view, the Committee once again urge DoRD to formulate or review its policy suitably in order to incorporate new emerging needy beneficiaries under PMGSY-IV to ensure that no eligible habitation is left out due to existing bottlenecks or obsolete data.

X. Reduction in NIRD&PR's Budget

Recommendation (Serial No. 17)

1.33 With regard to the reduction in NIRD&PR's budget, the Committee had recommended as under:-

> "NIRD, established in 1958 as an autonomous organization of the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, acts as a 'think-tank' for the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) by providing critical inputs for policymaking through research, creation of a knowledge base, and capacity building of rural development officials and development practitioners. NIRD has played a facilitating role in rural development flagship programs of MoRD since the inception of the current Ministry. NIRD was registered as a society funded by the Ministry of Rural Development. In 2014, the subject of Panchayati Raj was added to NIRD, making it the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR).

The Committee note that for the year 2024-25, the Budget Estimate (BE) was Rs. 108 crore, which was later reduced to Rs. 73.68 crore at the Revised Estimate (RE) stage, and the actual expenditure remained the same. However, the Committee are perplexed at the Budget Estimate for 2025-26 being only Rs. 1 lakh. From this, it can only be inferred that a major development regarding the future of the institute is being planned.

The Committee are concerned about the fate of the 200-odd employees of this historical institute. In this regard, the Committee have been informed that the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure, has recommended the disengagement of this autonomous organization from the MoRD, with a proposal that the institute be converted into a Centre of Excellence or a deemed university-type setup, generating its own funds. This proposal is still at the discussion stage with NIRDPR.

The Committee desire that, until a concrete decision is taken, the budget allocation be reviewed to ensure the continued functioning of this institute and to allay the fears and anxiety of its employees."

1.34 The DoRD in their action taken reply furnished to the Committee have stated as follows:-

"The Department of Expenditure (Ministry of Finance), Government of India undertook an exercise to rationalize various Central Autonomous Bodies established by the Government of India in line with Rule 229 of General Financial Rules, 2017. A review of the recommendations, carried out by Department of Expenditure, noted in its report AB-4 as below:-

"The Institute has expanded itself over time in terms of it's mandate. Its performance in fulfilling it's primary role of capacity building of rural development functionaries, elected representatives of PRIs, bankers, NGOs and other stakeholders has been satisfactory. The plethora of activities undertaken needs to be continued as NIRD&PR acts as a think-tank providing consultancy services for rural schemes & programmes. Moreover, it has emerged as an internationally recognized center of excellence. It has also taken steps towards long term financial stability by establishing a corpus fund.

It is recommended that NIRD&PR may be disengaged from MoRD/Government of India gradually in terms of financial support and administrative control. It may be converted into a Center of Excellence/Deemed University engaged in training and research. However, Central government may access it's services as a client. Government may give grants based on the functions of the body till it is converted into a deemed, autonomous Institute. Disengagement by the government is recommended with a three year timeline and a gradual budget reduction of 25 % each year."

In compliance of recommendation of Ministry of Finance, a draft cabinet note was circulated among stake holders Ministries/ Department for inter-ministerial consultation on 28.08.2023 and after receiving comments from various Ministries, revised draft cabinet note has been sent to DoE for comments on 03.04.2025. Reply from DoE is awaited."

Further Observations/Comments of the Committee

1.35 The Committee note that National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR) is an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) which has a long cherished history of existence since 1958. It has played a facilitating role in rural development flagship programs of MoRD since the inception of the current Ministry. The Committee are concerned to note that the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure (DoE), has recommended the disengagement of this autonomous organization from the MoRD, with a proposal that the institute be converted into a Centre of Excellence or a deemed university-type setup, generating its own funds. The Committee were perplexed with revelation that the Budget Estimate (BE) for 2025-26 is drastically reduced to only Rs. 1 lakh in comparison to the Budget Estimate (BE) for the year 2024-25 which was Rs. 108 crore and was later reduced to Rs. 73.68 crore at the Revised Estimate (RE) stage, and the actual expenditure remained the same. From this, it can only be inferred that a major development regarding the future of the institute is being planned and the fate of the 200-odd employees of this historical institute is compromised. Keeping this in view, the Committee desired that, until a concrete decision is taken, the budget allocation be reviewed to ensure the continued functioning of this institute and to allay the fears and anxiety of its employees. The DoRD in their Action Taken Reply have clearly stated that "It is recommended that NIRD&PR may be disengaged from MoRD/Government of India gradually in terms of financial support and administrative control. It may be converted into a Center of Excellence/Deemed University engaged in training and research. However, Central Government may access it's services as a client. Government may give grants based on the functions of the body till it is converted into a deemed, autonomous Institute. Disengagement by the government is recommended with a three year timeline and a gradual budget reduction of 25 percent each year." In this context, the Committee, strongly urge DoRD to prevail upon the Department of Expenditure (DoE) to halt the ongoing process of disengagement and allowing the institute to continue and sustain itself. The Committee, further urge DoRD to constitute a Committee under its supervision to oversee administrative and governance matters to ensure deliver of goods.

Expeditious filling up of vacancies on full time basis for the smooth functioning of the institute is desirable and the Committee also emphasize on immediate review of the current administration which has failed to maintain faculty trust or organizational coherence and take suitable remedial steps in this regard till than grant already extended by the Government may be continued.

XI. Increased Allocation of Funds

Recommendation (Serial No. 20)

1.36 In the context of increased allocation of funds, the Committee had recommended as below:-

> "The National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) is a 100% Centrally Funded Centrally Sponsored Scheme, providing social security assistance to senior citizens, widows, disabled persons, and bereaved families upon the death of the primary breadwinner. The scheme has been continued under the 15th Finance Commission Cycle (2021-26).
>
> The Committee note that the Budget Estimates for NSAP have remained static at Rs. 9,652 crore for the last three financial years, including the current year. The Committee are unable to comprehend the rationale behind not increasing the allocation of funds for NSAP since 2022-23. Given the importance of ensuring adequate financial support for the beneficiaries, the Committee feel that the budgetary allocation must be reviewed.
>
> Therefore, the Committee recommend that the Department of Rural Development submit a new proposal for Cabinet consideration, seeking an upward revision of fund allocation for NSAP. This would ensure that all eligible beneficiaries receive the intended assistance, and the needs of vulnerable sections are effectively addressed."

1.37 In their action taken reply to the above recommendation, DoRD have stated as follows:-

> "The Govt. has approved continuation of NSAP in its present form upto 2025-26. An evaluation study of NSAP schemes for assessing its overall impact and to suggest road map/ recommendations for continuation of the scheme has been initiated, for contemplating the proposal for continuing NSAP beyond March, 2026."

Further Observations/Comments of the Committee

1.38 The Committee are concerned to note that the allocation of funds under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) have been kept static at Rs. 9,652 crore for the last three financial years, including the current year. Since

the scheme ensured relief to beneficiaries who belong to extremely marginalised and economically distressed section of the society, the Committee are of the view that social programmes of such stature are a blessing for such sections of the society and their proper implementation totally hinges upon timely and adequate allocation of funds to all the States/UTs. Keeping this in view, the Committee are unable to comprehend the rationale for not increasing the allocation of funds under NSAP since 2022-23. NSAP being a social security scheme, the Committee in their Report had recommended Department of Rural Development (DoRD), to submit a new proposal for Cabinet consideration, seeking an upward revision of fund allocation for NSAP so that the needs of vulnerable sections are effectively addressed. In their Action Taken Reply the DoRD states that "The Govt. has approved continuation of NSAP in its present form upto 2025-26. An evaluation study of NSAP schemes for assessing its overall impact and to suggest road map/ recommendations for continuation of the scheme has been initiated, for contemplating the proposal for continuing NSAP beyond March, 2026." The Committee take into account the submission made by DoRD in this regard but are still of the firm view that the DoRD should not shy away from placing the proposal once again before the Cabinet for upward revision of fund allocation for NSAP to ensure adequate financial support for the beneficiaries.

XII. DISHA Meetings

Recommendation (Serial No. 22)

1.39 With regard to DISHA meetings, the Committee in this regard had recommended as under:-

> "The Committee are aware that District and State-level DISHA meetings are to be conducted once every three months and six months, respectively, to ensure strict oversight of government schemes and to provide a detailed review of their progress through interactions between public representatives and government officials. The primary objective of these meetings is to monitor the effective utilization of government funds for the welfare of the common masses. Given their critical role in governance, these meetings hold paramount importance as a valuable accountability mechanism.
>
> However, the Committee have repeatedly noted glaring irregularities by District and State authorities in holding these meetings as mandated. Despite numerous requests by Members of Parliament, the follow-up on conducting DISHA meetings effectively has been ignored. As of February 15, 2025, only 462 district-level meetings have been conducted for the 2024-25 financial year, which is far below the expected frequency.
>
> Since it is imperative for Members of Parliament to regularly review the implementation status of government schemes in their

constituencies, the Committee strongly recommend that the Department of Rural Development establish a robust mechanism to ensure regular convening of DISHA meetings. At a minimum, at least two meetings per year should be mandatorily conducted, with the compulsory attendance of all concerned officers to ensure effective monitoring and accountability."

1.40 The DoRD in their action taken reply have stated as below:-

"Timely convening of the DISHA meeting is crucial for ensuring effective governance and promoting the holistic development of the districts. Recognizing the critical importance of DISHA, Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) is persistently working to ensure that these meetings are convened on a regular basis. All States/UTs have been urged to take necessary actions and instruct the relevant Member Secretaries (District Collectors, Magistrates, Deputy Commissioners) to ensure that District Level DISHA meetings are held as per DISHA guidelines. The Hon'ble Members of Parliament have also been requested from time to time to hold mandated DISHA meetings in their respective districts."

Further Observations/Comments of the Committee

1.41 The Department of Rural Development has constituted District Development co-ordination and Monitoring Committee called 'DISHA' by replacing Vigilance and Monitoring Committee in June 2016. The sole aim of these meetings is to ensure effective governance and promoting holistic development of the districts. Recognizing the critical role of DISHA, timely convening of the meetings hold paramount importance as a valuable accountability mechanism. However, time and again, during their deliberations, the Committee were apprised about the glaring irregularity and casual approach elicited by the District/State authorities in the mandated regular holding of DISHA meetings. Despite numerous requests by Members of Parliament, the follow-up on conducting DISHA meetings effectively has been ignored. Moreover, concerned Officials also bypass these meetings and instead send junior level officers in their place who are not much aware of the developments around the schemes being implemented in the area. Also, with respect to coverage of DISHA committee meetings and the required documents to be produced for quality discussion making in these meetings as well as processes to be followed for conducting such meetings are far from satisfactory. In light of the above facts, the Committee with profound concern recommended DoRD to establish a robust mechanism to ensure regular convening of DISHA meetings. At a minimum, at least two meetings per year should be mandatorily conducted, with the compulsory attendance of all concerned officers to ensure effective monitoring and accountability. The Committee, find the action taken reply furnished by the DoRD in this regard is

routine and generic in nature, merely giving assurances and not providing any concrete remedial measures or steps to be followed to increase and optimize the number of DISHA meetings. The Committee are of the firm view that, regular happening of DISHA meetings make the district level officials cautious about their role and responsibility and the mechanisms of accountability have been strengthened. Also, regularity of these meetings has activated the system of reporting on the performance of schemes from the ground. This has created a sense of competitiveness among the line departments and officials who are implementing the schemes for better performance in order to get appreciation and recognition from the administration. Thus, in light of the above rationale, the Committee reiterate their earlier recommendation and make a strong appeal to the DoRD to take serious note of this matter and ensure that the Meetings of DISHA Committees are held regularly as per the provision with the attendance of concerned Officers and accountability may be fixed on the erring officials and other remedial measure may also be taken in this regard.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Serial No. 1)

2.1 The role of the Department of Rural Development (DoRD) is very crucial for the holistic development of rural areas of the country, and as such, adequate budgetary allocation is to be made for sustaining the momentum of the implementation of various ongoing important schemes and for taking up new important schemes by the Department. The Committee observe that as against the funds of Rs. 1,73,804.01 crore allocated at the RE stage of 2024-25, actual expenditure was Rs. 1,13,284.55 crore only, which is 34.82% less than the funds allocated at the RE stage. This indicates that either the budgetary planning of the Government was not prudent enough or there is a problem at the actual implementation stage of the schemes. At the fag end of the completion of the financial year, the Committee desire to know how the DoRD plans to utilize the allocated funds fully.

The Committee further observe that there is a meagre hike of 2.27% in the total budgetary allocation of the DoRD for the financial year 2025-26, amounting to Rs. 1,88,754.53 crore, as against Rs. 1,84,566.19 crore allocated during the financial year 2024-25. The Committee feel that this meagre hike is not adequate enough to accelerate the sustainable momentum of rural progress. It has also been observed that, barring DAY-NRLM, funds for other major schemes like MGNREGA, PMGSY, PMAY-G, and NSAP, by and large, have been kept static. The Committee, therefore, recommend the DoRD to chalk out quarterly and monthly expenditure plans well in advance in consultation with all stakeholders and undertake all possible measures to ensure the adequacy of funds at each stage of scheme implementation. It should also be ensured that no scheme of rural development gets hampered either due to a shortage of funds or the slow pace of implementation of targeted schemes.

Reply of the Government

2.2 MGNREGA:- Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is a demand-driven wage employment programme, and funds are released to States/UTs based on the approved Labour Budget (LB) and the performance of States/UTs during the financial year.

The Budget allocation under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA has steadily risen. In the budget allocation for the financial year during the FY 2024-25, the BE allocated was Rs. 86,000 crore which is the highest ever allocation to the scheme at the BE stage. For the FY 2025-26, BE continues to stand at Rs 86,000 crore which shows Government's commitment to provide adequate funds to the scheme.

It may kindly be noted that the release of funds to States/UTs is an ongoing process, and the Central Government remains committed to ensuring timely availability of funds in accordance with demand for work generated on the ground. As and when additional financial requirements arise, this Ministry continues to engage with the Ministry of Finance for the provision of requisite funds to ensure uninterrupted implementation of the Scheme.

PMAY-G:- The BE 2024-25 i.e. Rs 54500.14 crore, was proposed for construction of 40 lakh houses in FY 2024-25 in anticipation of an enhanced unit assistance of Rs. 2 lakhs in plain areas and Rs 2.20 lakhs in IAP districts/Hilly/ North Eastern States and difficult areas along with the requirement of liability of interest repayment for NABARD loan for the year 2024-25 under PMAY-G.

However, Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 09.08.2024 has approved the continuation of the PMAY-G for 5 more years to construct 2 crore additional houses with existing unit assistance of Rs. 1.20 lakh in plain areas and Rs. 1.30 lakh in North Eastern Region (NER) States and Hill States. Accordingly, excess funds are surrendered at RE stage.

Out of RE of 32,426.33 crore, expenditure of Rs 32,326.61 crore has been reported under the scheme as on 31.03.2025.

The Budget Estimate (BE) for 2025-26 has been set at ₹54,832.03 crore, based on projections outlined in the cabinet note and the scheme's actual physical progress.

PMGSY:- The allocation/release of funds to the States for implementation of PMGSY is made based on the fund release proposals received from the States/UTs and depends, inter-alia on works in hand, execution capacity of the States/UTs, and unspent funds available with the States/UTs. Quarterly and Monthly Action Plans are chalked out in advance after proper consultation with States/UTs and in pursuance of the guidelines of MoF. In addition, the States are regularly followed up for requirement of funds. .Under PMGSY there is an unbroken chain of funds release and no work has been affected due to a shortage of funds.

The budget estimate of PMGSY for FY 2025-26 is Rs. 19,000 crore. This amount along with the corresponding State share would be enough to meet the expenditure on PMGSY works to be carried out by States/UTs during the FY 2025-26.

NRLM:- As far as DAY-NRLM is concerned, out of the BE/RE provision of Rs.15047.00 Crore (including DDU-GKY and RSETI) for the year 2024-25, an amount of Rs.14706.18 Crore (ie.98%) has been utilised. This has been achieved even after the programme activities were affected due to the General election during initial period of 3 months.

BE provision of DAY-NRLM for the year 2025-26 is Rs.19005.00 Crore which is sufficient to meet the current level of anticipated expenditure for the year 2025-26. The matter will be further taken up at the RE stage, if any additional funds are required.

DDU-GKY:- Recommendation is noted for compliance.

NSAP:- Under NSAP schemes, funds are provided to States/UTs, based on digitized number of beneficiaries or States cap of beneficiaries whichever is lower. Fund release is subject to receiving proposal from States/UTs complete in all respects, in terms of scheme guidelines/ in procedures laid down by D/o Expenditure. BE 2025-26 for NSAP is Rs. 9652.00 crore which is same as the BE/RE for FY 2024-25 of Rs. 9652.00 crore. During 2024-25, based on the proposals received from States/UTs, entire BE/RE was released to States/UTs. In view of the State/UT wise ceiling in number of beneficiaries under NSAP schemes to be covered and considering that the ceiling is almost fully utilized, allocated BE 2025-26 appears to be sufficient to meet the requirement.

(DoRD O.M.No. G-20011/17/2024-B&A Dated 10.06.2025)

Recommendation (Serial No. 3)

2.3 The Committee observe from the data on physical and financial progress provided by the Ministry that no central funds have been released to the State of West Bengal under MGNREGA and various other schemes for FY 2022-23, 2023-24, and the current financial year. The continued suspension of funds has resulted in severe consequences, including a sharp increase in distress migration and disruptions in rural development initiatives. This has had a significant adverse impact on the livelihoods of rural populations, exacerbating economic hardships in the state.

The Committee strongly recommend that West Bengal receive its rightful dues for all eligible years, except for the year currently under dispute in court. Additionally, the pending payments must be released without delay to ensure that ongoing rural development projects are not stalled and that intended beneficiaries do not suffer due to financial constraints.

Reply of the Government

2.4 MGNREGA:- Release of funds under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS to the State of West Bengal has been stopped since 9th March, 2022 as per provisions of Section 27 of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 due to non- compliance with the directives of the Central Government.

Further, no Labour budget revision has been done for the State of West Bengal in FY 2021-22 after stoppage of funds in view of the non-compliance by the State as stated above

The State Government of West Bengal has yet to fully comply with the directives issued by the Central Government. Despite multiple communications between this Department and the State Government, the State Government has not been able to submit a satisfactory Action Taken Report yet.

The Central Government is committed towards ensuring transparency and accountability for the effective implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS. However, in light of the various irregularities found in the implementation of the Scheme, the restoration of the scheme in the State can be considered only upon receipt of satisfactory compliance with the Central Government's directives, as communicated from time to time.

PMAY-G:- Under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana- Gramin (PMAY-G), overall the State of West Bengal has been allocated a target of 45,69,423 houses out of which the State has sanctioned all houses, released 1st instalment of assistance to 34,65,969beneficiaries and 34,19,254 houses have been completed and 11,50,169 houses are yet to be completed, as of 23.04.2025. During Financial Year (FY) 2021-22, the Ministry of Rural Development had received complaints from the Members of Parliament, Members of State Legislative Assembly (West Bengal) and other stakeholders with serious allegations of re naming of the scheme name as Bangla Awaas Yojana in the State and also grant of assistance to ineligible households. These complaints were verified through inspection by the National Level Monitoring (NLM) teams. The complaints were found to be true in most of the cases. Thereafter, the State Government submitted compliances on the observations of the NLM teams and complaints of the Members of Parliament and Members of Legislative Assembly.

Further, it is informed that the Action Taken Report (ATR) submitted by the State Government during August, 2022 was accepted. The State Government had also agreed that since the 'Name' and 'Logo' are part of the core features of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs), the official 'Name' and 'Logo' of PMAY-G will be used and displayed in the Citizen and Public Information Board regularly. The State Government also issued instructions to the District Magistrates for proper implementation of the PMAY-G with official name and 'logo' of the scheme. The compliances submitted by the State Government were accepted and target of 11,36,488 houses from finalised Awaas+ 2018 survey list was allocated to the State during the FY 2022-23 vide D.O. letter dated 24.11.2022. The Ministry has already released Rs 25,798 crore as Central share to the State since 2016-17 till 2021-22 for implementation of the PMAY-G.

It is also pertinent to inform that post allocation of target to the State in November, 2022, complaints regarding irregularities in implementation of PMAY-G were received. These complaints were verified through Senior Officers Team and National Level Monitoring (NLM) Teams. No Central share of funds have been released to the State of West Bengal under the PMAY-G with the approval of the competent authority in the Ministry during FY 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 for targets of FY 2022-23 from the finalized Awaas+ 2018 survey lists due to non-submission of satisfactory Action Taken Reports (ATR) on the observations of the NLM teams and Senior Officers' Teams of the Ministry of Rural Development. The ATRs have been received from the state and are under examination. It is worthwhile to mention that the balance liability of Central share under PMAY-G for the State of West Bengal till 31.03.2024 to be released during FY 2024-25 was Rs. 7,888.67 crore. As per Union Cabinet's approval for implementation of PMAY-G during FY 2024-29, the Central share of funds for liability of targets allocated till 31.03.2024 were to be released during FY 2024-25, however these funds cannot be released during the current Financial Year.

PMGSY:- Under PMGSY, funds are released to States as an advance against the Value of Projects (VoP) sanctioned. Funds to the states are released on the subject to compliance of the Department of Expenditure and scheme guidelines. As and when fund proposals received from state of West Bengal are found in order, the funds has been released to the state.

The details of fund released (year-wise) to the state of the West Bengal since 2022-23 is as below:-

Financial Year	Central Share Released (Rs in Crore)
2022-23	381.03
2023-24	99.275
2024-25	225.00

DAY-NRLM:- As far as NRLM is concerned, there has been no stoppage in the release of funds to West Bengal. On the contrary, this Ministry released additional instalments in recognition of the State's better performance during FY 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

DDU-GKY:- Funds in DDUGKY are released to the States/UTs on receipt of fund request. Accordingly central share of admin funds were released to the state of West Bengal in FY 2023-24.

NSAP:- Under NSAP Schemes, there is no outstanding funds due to West Bengal. The State Govt. has availed the entire funds earmarked for 2024-25 in time. The funds released under NSAP schemes during last three years to the State of West Bengal is given below:

Financial Year	Funds released (Rs. in Crore)
2022-23	622.56
2023-24	1003.18
2024-25	796.40

(DoRD O.M.No. G-20011/17/2024-B&A Dated 10.06.2025)

Recommendation (Serial No. 9)

2.5 During the deliberations of the Committee, one of the pertinent issue that kept on coming up was the demand of suitable review and widening the ambit of 'permissible works' under MGNREGA so as to include few contemporary required areas such as disaster relief and climate-resilient activities.

Hence, the Committee strongly urge DoRD to look into the matter of inclusion of disaster relief and climate-resilient activities under the permissible ambit of MGNREGA so that the rural populace too is prepared to meet the challenges posed due to climate change. Furthermore, activities such as the construction of protection walls in hilly areas and embankments to mitigate coastal and riverbank erosion should be incorporated into the scope of MGNREGA to enhance disaster resilience and environmental protection in vulnerable regions.

The Committee recommend that the amount allocated for construction of embankment under MGNREGA in flood-prone areas should be raised from Rs. 10 lakh to 25 Lakh. Additionally, the Local Representative of Parliament should be empowered to propose and approve works under MGNREGA that they deem necessary for their respective constituencies, ensuring that local priorities and developmental needs are effectively addressed.

Reply of the Government

2.6 Under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS), there are 266 permissible works of which 156 works directly contributes as disaster relief and climate-resilient activities.

SN	Works category	Number of works (Refer Annexure for list of works)	Role in as disaster relief and climate-resilient activities.
1	Plantation works	53	**Disaster relief:** Flood, drought and

			temperature mitigation **Climate resilience:** Carbon sequestration (offset)
2	Soil and water conservation works	50	**Disaster relief:** Flood and drought through improving the vegetation cover. **Climate resilient:** Energy conservation and GHGs emission reduction
3	Irrigation infrastructure works	13	**Disaster relief:** Increasing the network of irrigation facilities. **Climate resilient:** Energy conservation and GHGs emission reduction
4	Vermi/NADEP/Berkeley composts structure/pits	16	**Climate resilient:** Energy conservation and GHGs emission reduction
5	Work on soak pits	2	**Climate resilient:** GHGs Emission reduction
6	Land Development	9	**Climate resilient:** Energy conservation
7	Ground water recharge	9	**Climate resilient:** Energy conservation
8	Biogas plant	2	**Climate resilient:** Energy conservation and GHGs emission reduction
9	Cyclone shelter and embankment	3	**Disaster relief:** Cyclone shelter provides the safe place for the community during the cyclone period and embankment prevents expansion of flood.
	Total	**156**	

With regard to raising the ceiling on the construction of embankment under MGNREGA in flood-prone areas, a committee has been constituted to rationalization of the permissible works under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS. The recommendation of the committee has been noted and the same shall be placed before the committee.

The current framework of bottom up planning is as per Sections (13-16) of the Mahatma Gandhi NREG Act, places decision-making in the hands of Gram Sabhas and Panchayati Raj Institutions, which ensures that planning remains closely aligned with the needs and priorities of the local population. One of the core objectives of MGNREGA is strengthening of Panchayati Raj Institutions. Upholding this structure not only reinforces participatory governance but also fosters greater ownership, accountability, and responsiveness at the grassroots level, thereby enhancing the overall effectiveness of the programme.

(DoRD O.M.No. G-20011/17/2024-B&A Dated 10.06.2025)

Recommendation (Serial No. 10)

2.7 The Committee emphasize the critical role of social audits in ensuring transparency, accountability, and public oversight in the implementation of government schemes. Given their significance, the Committee strongly recommend an increase in financial allocation for conducting comprehensive social audits across all welfare programs.

The scope of social audits must be expanded to cover all major government schemes, with greater community participation to strengthen grassroots monitoring and evaluation. To achieve this, capacity-building initiatives should be introduced to train and educate citizens on the audit process, equipping them with the necessary skills to actively oversee and assess the implementation of schemes in their areas.

Additionally, stringent measures must be enforced to enhance transparency and prevent mismanagement. This includes the mandatory use of audio and video recordings during social audit processes, ensuring that irregularities are systematically documented and addressed.

The Committee reiterate that social audits are a powerful mechanism for public accountability and urges the Department of Rural Development to take immediate steps to institutionalize and strengthen this framework across all relevant schemes.

Reply of the Government

2.8 The Ministry of Rural Development has taken several steps to institutionalize, strengthen, and expand the scope of social audits, particularly under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

1. Institutional Mechanism and Funding Support

Under Section 17 of MGNREGA, Gram Sabhas are mandated to conduct social audit of all works under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA. As per the existing framework (Annual Master Circular Para 10.6.1), From the States' entitlement of 6% towards administrative expenditure, upto0.5% shall be earmarked for the State's Social Audit. Funds are released to SAUs based on the submission of proposals in the prescribed format and subject to fulfillment of requisite conditions.

At present, 27 States and 1 Union Territory have established SAUs. Additionally, the Union Territories of Puducherry, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, and Ladakh have also completed the registration process for setting up SAUs.

2. Broadening the Scope of Social Audit

Recognizing the need to expand the application of social audits beyond MGNREGA, a Joint Task Force on Streamlining Social Audit has been constituted by C&AG under the chairpersonship of the Additional Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General (Local Governance Audit). Its ToR includes revising audit standards, ensuring independence of SAUs, defining fund norms, training standards, and establishing mechanisms for inter-departmental coordination and reporting.

3. Use of Technology to Enhance Transparency

To strengthen transparency and documentation, the Ministry has initiated the integration of NREGASoft (Social Audit MIS) with the Panchayat Nirnay App. This will enable the real-time capture of geo-tagged and time-stamped photographs of Social Audit Gram Sabhas, ensuring better record keeping, documentation of processes and transparency. The scaling up is currently underway and will significantly enhance the credibility and impact of social audits.

4. Extension of Social Audit to Other Schemes- Noted

The recommendations of the Committee regarding increased financial allocation, greater community participation, capacity building, and the mandatory use of audio-visual documentation have been noted and will be given due consideration in future planning, policy guidelines, and budgetary proposals.

(DoRD O.M.No. G-20011/17/2024-B&A Dated 10.06.2025)

Recommendation (Serial No. 11)

2.9 The Committee note that a persistent challenge in the implementation of PMAY-G has been the identification of genuine beneficiaries, particularly homeless individuals and those residing in kutcha houses. The eligibility criteria for PMAY-G were determined based on housing deprivation parameters from the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC), 2011.

However, considerable time has passed since the base year, and it has been widely observed that many eligible beneficiaries have become ineligible while a whole lot of eligible beneficiaries have surfaced and waiting to avail the benefits. This gap in beneficiary identification is a serious deficiency in the scheme's implementation and requires urgent rectification.

The Committee recommend that the Department of Rural Development (DoRD) undertake a comprehensive review of the existing list of eligible beneficiaries at the earliest. Additionally, the policy framework must be revised to ensure that newly emerging needy households—who were not covered under the SECC 2011 Census—are duly included in the PMAY-G scheme. This will ensure that no eligible and deserving beneficiary is left out.

Furthermore, the Committee also recommend that the eligibility criteria be expanded to include households with semi-permanent structures, such as those with pucca walls or tin roofs, to better reflect the current housing realities and ensure comprehensive coverage under PMAY-G.

Reply of the Government

2.10 The Awaas+ 2024 household survey has started w.e.f 27.12.2024 for identification of eligible potential beneficiary households as per the revised exclusion criteria under the PMAY-G, as approved by the Union Cabinet. The previous 13 point exclusion criteria of SECC 2011 have been simplified into 10 exclusion criteria for identification of eligible potential beneficiaries in this new phase of PMAY-G. The modified exclusion process is reproduced as under:-

Step 1: Exclusion of pucca houses- All households living in houses with pucca roof and/or pucca wall and households living in houses with more than 2 rooms are filtered out.

Step 2: Automatic Exclusion– From the remaining set of households, all households fulfilling any one of the 10 parameters listed below are automatically excluded: -

1. Motorised three/four-wheeler
2. Mechanised three/ four-wheeler agricultural equipment
3. Kisan Credit Card with credit limit of ₹50,000 or above
4. Household with any member as a Government employee
5. Households with non-agricultural enterprises registered with the Government
6. Any member of the family earning more than ₹15,000 per month
7. Paying income tax
8. Paying professional tax
9. Own 2.5 acres or more of irrigated land
10. Own 5 acres of more of unirrigated land

As of 23.04.2025, a total of 3.32 crore households are surveyed during the Awaas+ 2024 household survey for inclusion as potential eligible beneficiaries under this phase of the PMAY-G (FY 2024-29).

It is also worthwhile to mention here that with the approval of the competent authority, an Expert Committee was constituted for revisiting the definition of kutcha house under the PMAY-G. The recommendations of this Expert Committee were accepted and the definition of kutcha house for the States of Assam and Tripura was modified to include house with kutcha wall and CGI sheet roof as kutcha house in these 2 States only. This Committee had also considered requests received from Govt. of Uttar Pradesh and Punjab but did not recommend for any revision in definition in respect of these 2 States.

(DoRD O.M.No. G-20011/17/2024-B&A Dated 10.06.2025)

Recommendation (Serial No. 14)

2.11 Rural roads is a State subject, and the responsibility for the execution of road works and their maintenance under PMGSY lies with the State Governments, who are the implementing authorities of the scheme. The roads constructed under this Yojana are based on the prescribed norms and standards under the provisions of PMGSY. The Committee were enlightened during their study visit about the non-availability of land/space for road construction as per the prescribed norms under PMGSY.

Therefore, the Committee recommend that the DoRD relax the road construction norms by amending the provisions and guidelines of PMGSY to give flexibility to State Governments to adjust road width and design norms based on their local geographical conditions and transportation needs. The Committee also recommend that the construction of an additional 100 km of roads be allocated based on the recommendation of the local representative of Parliament, and that the funds for the same be allocated from the Consolidated Fund of India.

Reply of the Government

The primary objective of the PMGSY is to provide connectivity, by way of an all-weather road with necessary culverts and cross-drainage structures, which is operable throughout the year, to eligible unconnected habitations in rural areas. Habitations with a population of 500+ in plain areas and 250+ in North-Eastern and Himalayan states, Desert areas, Tribal (Schedule V) areas and selected tribal and backward districts as identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs/ Planning Commission as per Census, 2001 were to be covered under the scheme, so that these habitations can have access to basic health services, education and markets for their produce. In the critical Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected blocks (as identified by MHA), additional relaxation has been given to connect habitations with population of 100+ (Census 2001).

Further, the primary objective of PMGSY-IV is to provide all-weather road connectivity to about 25,000 unconnected habitations of population size 500+ in plains, 250+ in Hill States/ UTs and North-Eastern Region (NER), Special Category Areas (Tribal Schedule-V Areas, Desert Areas, Aspirational Blocks/ Districts) and 100+ in LWE affected Districts (areas notified by MHA) in 9 States as per Census 2011.

The Rural Roads constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana must meet the technical specifications and geometric design standards given in the Rural Roads Manual of the IRC (IRC:SP20:2002) and also, where required, the Hill Road Manual (IRC:SP:48-1998);

The choice of design and surface for the road would be determined, inter alia, by factors like traffic, soil type and rainfall, following the technical specifications laid down in the Rural Roads Manual (IRC: SP20:2002). Normally, rural roads would need to be designed to carry up to 45 commercial vehicles per day (CVPD) only. All cases of design for new construction where higher traffic is projected need detailed justification. In the case of new construction for eligible Habitations of population below 1000 where traffic expected is likely to remain very low (below 15 CVPD), in the interest of economy, the road would generally be designed for a gravel or other unsealed surface as provided in the Rural Roads Manual, subject to considerations of rainfall. In case of new construction to connect Habitations with population below 500, where the projected traffic growth is likely to be very low, the carriageway may further be restricted to 3.0 m.

Further, the PMGSY Guidelines provide a key role to the public representatives and Hon'ble Members of Parliament in the implementation of the programme, including selection and construction of roads. Consultation with Members of Parliament is provided at both the DRRP finalisation and Annual Proposals stages. In addition, at the stage of preparing DPRS, the DPIU conducts a transect walk along the road alignment, involving the local panchayat. State Governments are required to arrange joint inspection of ongoing as well as completed works under PMGSY by Hon'ble MPs, Hon'ble MLAs and representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions.

Some important provisions of PMGSY-III guidelines, which provide detailed procedures for consultation with the Members of Parliament during the process of planning and selection of roads, are detailed below:

Para 3.6. The suggestions given by the Members of Parliament are to be given full consideration while finalizing the District Rural Roads Plan (DRRP).

Para 5.5. The Annual proposals will be based on the CUCPL following the Order of Priority (subject to PCI). However, it is possible that there are inadvertent errors or omissions, particularly in the selection of Through Routes. Accordingly, it is desirable to also associate public representatives while finalizing the selection of road works in the annual proposals. The proposals of the Members of Parliament are required to be given full consideration, for this purpose:

(i) The CUCPL should be sent to concerned MPs with the request that their proposals on the selection of works out of the CUCPL should be sent to the District Panchayat. It is suggested that at least 15 clear days may be given for the purpose.

(ii) In order to ensure that the prioritization has some reference to the funding available, the size of proposals expected may also be indicated to the Members of Parliament while forwarding the CUCPL list to them. District wise allocation may be indicated to enable choice with the requisite geographical spread. It is expected that such proposals of Members of Parliament which adhere to the Order of Priority would be invariably accepted subject to consideration of equitable allocation of funds and need for upgradation.

(iii) The proposals received from the Members of Parliament by the stipulated date would be given full consideration in the District Panchayat which would record the reason in each case of non-inclusion. Such proposals that cannot be included would be communicated in writing to the Members of Parliament with reasons for non-inclusion of such proposals in each case. It would be preferable if the communication is issued from the Nodal Department at a senior level.

Para 7.1: After approval by the District Panchayat, the proposals would be forwarded by the PIU to the SRRDA. The PIU will at that time prepare the details of proposals forwarded by the Members of Parliament, and action taken thereon, in Proforma MP-I and MP–II and send it along with the proposals. In all cases where the proposal of an MP has not been included, cogent reasons shall be given based on the reasons given by the District Panchayat.

Para 7.3 The State Level Standing Committee (SLSC) would scrutinize the proposals to see that they are in accordance with the Guidelines and that the proposals of the Members of Parliament have been given full consideration.

In order to ensure that the State Government give due attention towards this aspect of the guidelines while submitting the proposals to the Ministry of Rural Development for sanction, the Ministry has issued a fresh advisory to the States on 23rd June, 2023. The State Governments have been advised, *inter-alia*, to communicate the final list of proposals in the order of priority to the Member of Parliament with the reasons for non-inclusion of certain roads in the proposals and incorporate their recommendations with the proposals sent to NRIDA/Ministry for approval.

As per the PMGSY-IV norms, the District Rural Roads Block and District level has to be prepared, based on the conducted surveys to identify habitations through the Gram Sadak Survey App, and placed before the District Panchayats. In all these stages the suggestions and proposals from Hon'ble Members of Parliament are to be given due importance.

Ministry of Rural Development vide letter dated 29.01.2025 (English) and 10.02.2025 (Hindi) (Copy Attached) has directed States/ UTs that during the survey process itself, the Project Implementation Unit (PIUs) should apprise the Hon'ble Members of Parliament (both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha as per PMGSY norms) regarding the ongoing survey and give due consideration to their suggestions for inclusion of habitations in DRRP and CNCPL as per the eligibility norms of the programme, para 5.5 of the programme guidelines mention the following:-

5.5 After the CNCPL is prepared and verified it shall be placed before the district Panchayat. The Member of Parliament/ MLA shall be given a copy of the CNPL and their suggestions and the suggestions of lower level Panchayati Raj Institutions shall be given fullest consideration by the district panchayat while according its approval.

The suggestion of the Hon'ble Members of Parliament regarding the eligible habitations should be duly recorded in MP-I format before submission of proposals to district Panchayat for the approval. This will ensure that the eventual selection of the habitations is comprehensive and it strengthens the planning and implementation under the programme.

Further, this Ministry vide letter dated 15.03.2025 (Copy Attached) has directed the States/ UTs to circulate the letter dated 29.01.2025 and 10.02.2025 along with a copy of PMGSY guidelines (English and Hindi) to all Hon'ble Members of Parliament for kind information.

(DoRD O.M.No. G-20011/17/2024-B&A Dated 10.06.2025)

Recommendation (Serial No. 15)

2.13 The program should prioritize roads in poor condition that have been neglected by State Governments, ensuring equitable infrastructure development. These roads should either be rehabilitated under a dedicated initiative or included in the new PMGSY allotment to improve rural connectivity and accessibility.

A flagship program like PMGSY is affected by the malaise of poor maintenance post-construction and after being handed over to the States. The entire effort of constructing quality roads to provide rural connectivity gets marred by inadequate maintenance. The Committee note the concerns raised from various quarters and through their own experiences during study visits that roads constructed under PMGSY at various locations suffer from poor maintenance and begin to deteriorate at an early stage. It has been noted that while provisions for maintenance exist in the guidelines, there is a lack of adherence to them, and there is no accountability. The wherewithal for honesty and transparency seems to be lacking in the implementation of such an important scheme. Even though a monitoring mechanism is elaborately laid down, the maintenance of roads constructed under PMGSY remains a serious concern.

It has also been noticed that contractors, after the stipulated period under their supervision, hand over the roads by merely carrying out cosmetic patchwork on damaged roads. Therefore, the Committee are of the firm opinion that the evaluation of roads should be conducted on a periodic basis even after the completion of construction, both through physical inspections and by utilizing virtual techniques such as geo-tagging and mobile applications, to ensure roads are not neglected and are maintained properly.

Thus, the DoRD is recommended to earmark specific teams for periodic and mandatory physical inspections of roads under PMGSY. For those roads that are already neglected and in disrepair, the Committee recommend that these roads be identified and either rehabilitated under a dedicated initiative or included in the new PMGSY allotment to improve rural connectivity and accessibility.

Reply of the Government

2.14 The estimated sanctioned cost of any road project encompasses the construction cost, a five-year defect liability cost (for routine maintenance based on a Performance-Based Maintenance Contract as per NRIDA's Standard Bidding Document, executed through the e-MARG module), and additional costs for routine maintenance and renewal after the five-year defect liability period. These are monitored through the e-MARG module, in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedures (SoP) issued by NRIDA for both pre- and post-five-year DLP. Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the DoRD and the State Government/UT, the Central Government funds the construction cost, while maintenance costs for up to 10 years are borne by the State/UT Government. To qualify for Central Government funding, the State/UT's share, which includes both the construction cost and the 10-year maintenance cost as approved in each Detailed Project Report (DPR), must be credited to the PMGSY fund. To ensure timely credit by the State/UT Government, DoRD requires that maintenance funds be deposited into the works account, with 50% by May 31 and the remaining 50% by November 30 of each financial year, prior to releasing the central share.

The SRRDAs were advised to develop road maintenance cells to ensure effective monitoring of maintenance aspects of rural roads. All SRRDAs shall ensure that this maintenance cell is operating efficiently in the State. Bridges constructed under PMGSY are also required to be maintained efficiently, therefore, the SRRDAs shall ensure effective monitoring of these bridges. To ensure this, the road maintenance cell of the SRRDA shall include a bridge expert with appropriate qualifications and experience. The State shall also develop a manual for inspection and maintenance of bridges. The maintenance of roads and bridges under this programme shall be governed by the provisions of the latest IRC/NRIDA guidelines in this regard. The state shall include 5 years bridge Defect Liability Period (DLP) including routine maintenance, as is being done for road components, in the Bidding Document.

State Governments shall endeavour to develop sustainable sources of funding for the maintenance of rural roads after the defect liability period and shall ensure that the SRRDA:

i. Prepares and submits to the State Nodal Department and NRIDA an annual estimate of funds for proper maintenance of the Rural Core Network and roads taken up under PMGSY.
ii. Enforces a prioritization criterion for allocation of budgeted maintenance funds. The criteria may be developed in consultation with NRIDA, based on the Pavement Condition Index (PCI), giving weightage to conditions like traffic/population.
iii. Liaises with the executing agencies receiving maintenance funding for rural roads to ensure coordinated application of the prioritization criteria; and
iv. Publishes an annual PIU-wise Road Asset Valuation and Network Asset Valuation based on road maintenance investments.

The e-MARG module shall be used for monitoring of maintenance contracts for roads under PMGSY.

Utilization of mobile application ad geo-tagging under PMGSY to ensure roads are maintained properly are as below:-

Meri Sadak APP:- With the view to achieve the objectives of e-Governance and Digital India, a new Mobile App for PMGSY roads, “Meri Sadak” was launched on 20th July, 2015 and integrated into OMMAS for user friendly and transparent Citizen Feedback and complaint redressal system. The citizens, with the use of this application, can express their concerns related to slow pace, abandoned work or bad quality of PMGSY works.

eMARG : PMGSY's IT platform for maintenance of rural roads, also uses GIS to readily display the geo-tagged inspection photos which are used to ratify routine maintenance payments to contractors. Every road in eMARG is registered on GIS and each inspection is tied to a geo-tagged section of the road along with photographs.

PMGSY envisages a **three tier Quality Assurance Mechanism** to ensure quality of road works during construction. The first two tiers of the structure are the responsibility of the respective State Governments and under the third tier, NRIDA engages independent National Quality Monitors (NQMs) for inspections at random, of the road works under the programme. Under the **1st tier of quality control** mechanism, the quality standards are enforced through in-house mechanism by establishing field laboratories and carrying out mandatory tests. In addition, to augment the field laboratories for non-frequent tests, state and district laboratories have been promoted in all States. As per the Programme Guidelines, a site quality control laboratory has to be set up by the contractor for each package. Payments are not made to the contractors unless quality control laboratory has been set up. Under the **second tier**, independent monitoring of quality at the State level has been prescribed under the control of SRRDA. The SRRDA is required to monitor the quality of works by deploying State Quality Monitors (SQMs), independent of the implementing units and upload the abstract of quality grading along with photographs in OMMAS. These quality monitors check the establishment of field laboratories also. As per guidelines, each road work is inspected by the State Quality Monitors at three different stages. The first two inspections of every work should be carried out during the execution of work spaced at least three months apart and the last inspection should be carried out on the completion of every work, as soon as possible but preferably within 4 months of completion of the work.

The **third tier** of the quality mechanism is an independent monitoring system at the central level. Under this tier, retired senior engineers termed as National Quality Monitors (NQMs) are engaged for inspections of road works. Works for inspection are selected at random. The basic objective of this tier is to identify generic issues in quality assurance mechanism of the State. Also these provide on-site guidance to field staff for better understanding of specifications and good construction practices. The NQM grades the work inspected in three categories viz. Satisfactory(S), Satisfactory Requiring Improvement (SRI) and Unsatisfactory (U). The States are required to send Action Taken Reports (ATRs) in respect of works graded as 'Satisfactory Requiring Improvement' and 'Unsatisfactory' by the NQMs during their field inspections. These ATRs are further processed at NRIDA and a decision about grade improvement is taken based on documentary proof including photographs of road work and recommendation of the SRRDA. The entire exercise of submission of ATRs by the States and taking of action on these ATRs has now been facilitated in the form of an "online process" on OMMAS.

(DoRD O.M.No. G-20011/17/2024-B&A Dated 10.06.2025)

Recommendation (Serial No. 18)

2.15 The Committee observe that under the Rationalization of Autonomous Bodies, it has been proposed to merge the National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (NRIDA) and the National Rural Livelihood Promotion Society (NRLPS) with the Department of Rural Development and to set up a dedicated Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) named National Rural Infrastructure Development Unit (NRIDU) within the Department.

The Committee are of the view that the merger of NRIDA and NRLPS with the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) should not compromise their autonomy. These institutions play a crucial role in implementing and monitoring rural development programs, and their independent functioning ensures efficiency, innovation, and specialized expertise. Efforts should be made to restore their autonomy while ensuring seamless coordination with the Ministry. Instead of full integration, these institutions should be strengthened with better financial, administrative, and functional independence, allowing them to operate effectively. Measures should be taken to enhance their role in policymaking, program implementation, and monitoring, ensuring that their expertise is utilized optimally for capacity building, rural infrastructure, and livelihood promotion.

Reply of the Government

2.16 **NRIDA:-** The matter is being examined and inter-ministerial consultations are being held.

NRLPS:- The revised cabinet note for merger of NRLPS with DoRD has been prepared and has been approved by Hon'ble Minister RD. However, as per recommendation on the merger of NRLPS by the Standing Committee, it will be put-up separately.

(DoRD O.M.No. G-20011/17/2024-B&A Dated 10.06.2025)

Recommendation (Serial No. 19)

2.17 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) under the DAY-NRLM scheme are a boon to rural women, enabling them to work together for their livelihoods. However, the Committee note that SHG women can be better supported in generating revenue if the products they produce, such as dairy, agricultural goods, handicrafts, etc., have a proper platform for marketing and sales.

Although SHGs have access to village mandis, the limited operational days of these mandis restrict their ability to sell their products effectively. Therefore, continuous promotion and marketing of SHG products is essential to provide them with the much-needed opportunity to thrive. This includes free connectivity for SHG products to online marketplaces like Amazon, Flipkart, etc.

Additionally, SHG members should be provided with specialized computer training to help them launch their local products online through websites and social media platforms, enabling them to generate revenue through their hard work and skills.

The Committee therefore recommend that the DoRD develop a robust marketing structure that allows SHG products to gain better visibility, leading to wider local and international customer reach, ultimately enhancing revenue generation and ensuring sustainable incomes.

Reply of the Government

2.18 The Ministry of Rural Development has undertaken various steps for enabling branding and e-marketing access for SHG products. These efforts include the following:

1. Branding: The Ministry of Rural Development has registered brands as “Saras”, Saras Aajeevika” and “Aajeevika” for promotion of SHG products. Nineteen states have created state level brands and are facilitating the sales of the SHG products under these brands, e.g. Palash and Adiva of Jharkhand, Himira of Himachal Pradesh, Mathi of Tamil Nadu etc.

2. Saras Melas are organised at National, Regional, State and District levels to popularise the Saras brand and also to promote the sale of SHG products in urban markets.

3. A retail store - Saras Aajeevika Gallery is being operated in Central Delhi for sale of curated products of SHG members. Similarly States are also operating retail outlets under the state’s brands.

4. A dedicated eCommerce platform eSARAS for selling of curated SHG products has been set up and is being operated by MoRD.

5. eSARAS is also live as a Seller Network Participant on ONDC. Curated products of women SHGs are now available on 11 Apps of ONDC network i.e. Paytm, Mystore, Craftsvilla, Jagran, Snapdeal, Novopay, Easypay,

Gonuclei, Rubaru, Mappls, Himira. As on date 75 orders have been received through ONDC platform.

6. Tie-ups/ partnership have been done with other eCommerce players i.e. GeM, ONDC, Amazon, Flipkart, Meesho and JioMart.

(DoRD O.M.No. G-20011/17/2024-B&A Dated 10.06.2025)

Recommendation (Serial No. 21)

2.19 During its recent study visit, the Committee came to know that Lakshadweep is not fully utilizing the central assistance available under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP).

The Committee is of the view that to maximize benefits for eligible beneficiaries, it is essential to ensure effective utilization of both Central and Union Territory (UT) contributions. Integrating NSAP with existing UT welfare schemes would help enhance social security coverage, optimize resource allocation, and provide greater financial assistance to the elderly, widows, and persons with disabilities.

The Committee therefore recommends that a structured implementation plan be adopted to ensure seamless coordination between central and UT funds, preventing underutilization and ensuring that all eligible individuals receive their rightful entitlements.

Reply of the Government

2.20 NSAP is a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS). As per the guidelines of NSAP, the State/UTs are encouraged to provide top up amounts at least of an equivalent amount to the assistance provided by the Central Govt. to NSAP beneficiaries so that the beneficiaries could get a decent level of assistance. Further, if there are more deserving beneficiaries in a State, the State has the option to give them pension from its own resources. As per latest information collected from UT of Lakshadweep, the UT administration is providing top up amount in the range of Rs.300 to Rs.800/- for various categories of NSAP beneficiaries and also covering 1895 additional beneficiaries through its own scheme over and above NSAP beneficiaries.

Although funds are earmarked to UT of Lakshadweep, despite constant follow up no proposal for fund release has been received from the UT administration since 2012-13. UT of Lakshwadeep was release the central assistance of Rs. 21 lakh during FY 2012-13.

(DoRD O.M.No. G-20011/17/2024-B&A Dated 10.06.2025)

CHAPTER III

RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT

NIL

(Department of Rural Development O.M.No. G-20011/17/2024-B&A Dated 10.06.2025)

CHAPTER IV

RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE

Recommendation (Serial No. 2)

4.1 The Committee note with concern the significant unspent balances in multiple schemes under the Department of Rural Development (DoRD), which remains a matter of serious concern. As of the latest financial review, the accumulated unspent funds under various schemes are PMAY-G: ₹15,825.35 crore, PMGSY: ₹3,545.77 crore, NSAP: ₹1,813.34 crore, NRLM: ₹2,583.16 crore, MGNREGA: ₹1,627.65 crore and DDU-GKY: ₹1,313.43 crore.

This substantial accumulation of unutilized funds reflects not only weaknesses in fiscal planning within DoRD but also gaps in the implementation mechanisms of rural development schemes. The Committee acknowledge and appreciate the gradual reduction in unspent balances over time. However, the continued non-utilization of funds, along with pending wage and material liabilities and delays in installment releases, adversely affects the efficiency of scheme implementation and hinders the achievement of desired outcomes. Therefore, the Committee strongly recommend that the DoRD develop innovative strategies and adopt a more effective approach to enhance fiscal prudence. It is essential that funds are optimally utilized within the planned timeframes, ensuring that rural development programs function smoothly and effectively contribute to their intended objectives.

Reply of the Government

4.2 "**MGNREGA:-** It is reiterated that the release of funds to States/UTs is an ongoing process, and the Central Government remains committed to ensuring timely availability of funds in accordance with demand for work generated on the ground. Continuous efforts have been made in order to ensure complete utilization of the available funds by all the States/UTs. An unspent balance of ₹159.49 crore only (0.19%) remained for FY 2024-25, against a Budget Estimate of ₹86,000 crore. However, the Ministry ensures the release of the next instalment only after the utilization of funds against the previous central release.

To ensure optimal fund utilization, the Ministry of Finance has introduced SNA-SPARSH module in FY 2024–25 for "Just-in-Time" release of Material and Administrative funds under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS. This reform enhances fund flow efficiency, transparency, and financial prudence by enabling real-time, demand-based fund disbursement through seamless integration with Public Financial Management System (PFMS), State Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS), and RBI's e-Kuber system. By minimizing idle fund parking and improving cash management, SNA-SPARSH ensures accountability, the timely availability of funds and enhances prudent financial management.

PMAY-G:- Liquidation of Unspent balance have an indirect impact in progress of the scheme. To minimize the Unspent Balances & ensuring better implementation of the scheme, the following steps are being taken by this Ministry:-

- **i.** Micro monitoring of house sanction and completion using latest IT tools and technologies.
- **ii.** Continuous review at the levels of Secretary/ Deputy Director General level.
- **iii.** Focus on completion of those houses where 3rd or 2nd installment of funds has been released
- **iv.** Separate review of States with high target, poor performing States and delayed houses.
- **v.** Timely release of funds as per requirements of States/UTs.
- **vi.** The Aadhar Based Payment System (ABPS) has been integrated with PFMS by linking the beneficiaries' Aadhar numbers with their bank accounts and other financial details in the PFMS database. This allows for a seamless flow of funds from the government to the beneficiaries through ABPS.

PMGSY:- PMGSY is not a DBT module scheme. Under PMGSY, funds are released to States as an advance against the Value of Projects (VoP) sanctioned. As such some amount of funds will always remain with the States. However, to avoid parking of funds, further funds are released to states only when they spend 75% of the previously released funds. The same is tracked through PFMS and fully ensured. Further, the Ministry of Finance has issued fresh guidelines for releasing the funds against expenditure to be called "Just in Time" release through SNA-SPARSH. Once this is fully implemented, the funds will be released against the expenditure and no amount will be available in the bank account of the State/UT. At the beginning of the year, a Mother Sanction will be issued indicating the drawing limit of each State/UT which can be revised upward and downward depending upon the funds flow. The actual release will take place against the bills pushed on PFMS by the State Finance MIS portal called "Integrated Financial Management and Information System(IFMIS)". In this scenario, no unspent balance will be available with states. Upon onboarding on SNA-SPARSH, the unspent balance available in the account of the state nodal account will have to be returned in the Consolidated Funds of India/State/UTs in the proportion of existing funding pattern based on the pre-defined Standard Operating Procedure. Some States like Assam, Rajasthan, Meghalaya and Chhattisgarh have already on-boarded and others will also follow suit very soon.

DAY-NRLM:- With the implementation of guidelines on "Procedure for Release of funds under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and monitoring utilization of the funds released" by Ministry of Finance, Government of India (GoI), each instalment is now limited to 25% of the allocation and proposal for next instalment can be raised only on spending of 75% of the available funds including State Share. In case State share is not released, proposal for next instalment cannot be processed. All the sub-schemes of DAY-NRLM has been on boarded at PFMS platform in all states and all the expenditures is being done through PFMS. This enhances transparency in transfer of fund and unspent balances at all levels.

In addition to the above, this Division rolled out a new electronic fund management system namely e-FMAS (e-Financial Management and Accounting System) through which expenditure position of the State can be monitored daily-wise. It will help this Division to monitor State-wise expenditure and unspent balance position more vigilantly and guide lagging States for timely utilization of funds.

Further, to control the unspent balance, Finance Review Meetings are held with States to review the progress of the expenditure and resolve any impediments in smooth flow of funds and pace of expenditure. Performance Review Meetings with the States are also held regularly at highest level under the Chairmanship of Secretary (RD) which are attended by the Additional Chief Secretaries/Principal Secretaries of all States.

It is also pertinent to mention that this Division is also in process to implement SNA-SPARSH model in the States to comply the principle of 'just-in-time' release. Once, the implementation of SNA-SPARSH completed with all the States, there not be any unspent balances with the States.

DDU-GKY:- Implementation of SNA-SPARSH under DDUGKY has been initiated which will minimise the accumulation of unutilised funds to a great extent. However recommendations given by the committee have been noted for compliance.

NSAP:- To foster transparency and swiftness in transactions, NSAP pension schemes were included under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) schemes in December 2014. At present, almost all States/ UTs are DBT compliant except Andhra Pradesh and Nagaland. NSAP-PPS, a web portal linked with Pubic Financial Management System (PFMS) as well as UIDAI for Aadhaar authentication/ de-duplication, has been operationalized and all States/UTs have been requested to on-board the portal to serve as a single beneficiary management system. State/UTs can generate the pension payment order monthly by using NSAP-PPS and disburse the pension in the respective account of the beneficiary through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). Fund requirement of the States/UTs is arrived at based on the digitized number of beneficiaries of State cap of beneficiaries, whichever is lower. Further, funds are released to the State/UT in 4 equal tranches and before release of each tranche State/UT concerned has to submit relevant documents/ information in compliance with scheme guidelines/ procedures laid down by DoE. These measures help in optimum utilization of the allocated budget.

As regards financial achievement in FY 2024-25, the entire allocation of Rs.9652 crore was released to States/UTs under NSAP schemes. BE 2025-26 for NSAP is Rs. 9652.00 crore. As there is no change in State/UT wise ceiling of beneficiaries under NSAP schemes, allocated BE 2025-26 appears to be sufficient to meet the requirement.”

(DoRD O.M.No. G-20011/17/2024-B&A Dated 10.06.2025)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 1.8 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation (Serial No. 4)

4.3 The Committee are concerned to note that the Budget Estimates under MGNREGA for the Financial Year 2025-26 have remained unchanged at ₹86,000 crore since the Revised Estimates for 2023-24.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) provides a legal right to work for the most economically disadvantaged sections of the rural population who are willing to work. It is a last resort of succour for the jobless section of the society who have no other means of livelihood to feed their family members. The scheme serves as a critical safety net, particularly for those facing extreme poverty and unemployment.

The role and importance of MGNREGA was clearly visible during the corona pandemic times when it acted as a ray of hope for the needy in times of distress. The Committee are unable to comprehend the rationale for not increasing the allocation of fund under MGNREGA since 2023-24. Since the scheme ensured employment to masses of rural poor and deprived section of the society, it is very much essential that adequate Budgetary Allocation ought to be made for the effective implementation of the Scheme.

The Committee urge that the requirement for fund allocation should be looked afresh as it is an established procedure that MGNREGA being a demand driven scheme, the funds can be raised at RE stage accordingly. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department of Rural Development apprise themselves of the still existing high demand for job under MGNREGA at the ground level more realistically and press upon the Ministry of Finance for increased allocation to MGNREGA.

Reply of the Government

4.4 “The Budget allocation under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA has steadily risen. In the budget allocation for the FY 2024-25, the BE allocated was Rs. 86,000 crore which is the highest ever allocation to the scheme at the BE stage. For the FY 2025-

26, BE continues to stand at Rs 86,000 crore, which shows the Government's commitment to provide adequate funds to the scheme.

The release of funds to States/UTs is a continuous and demand-driven process. The Central Government remains committed to ensuring the timely availability of funds based on the actual requirement for work on the ground. As and when additional financial requirements arise, this Ministry continues to engage with the Ministry of Finance for the provision of requisite funds to ensure uninterrupted implementation of the Scheme."

(DoRD O.M.No. G-20011/17/2024-B&A Dated 10.06.2025)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 1.11 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation (Serial No. 5)

4.5 A long-standing concern of the Committee regarding MGNREGA have been the revision of wage rates and the disparity in wages across different States and Union Territories. Despite multiple recommendations on this matter, the Department of Rural Development has not implemented any significant changes.

The Committee emphasize the need for the Department to address this issue with a balanced and pragmatic approach. It is essential to ensure that wage rates are revised appropriately, keeping in mind the rising cost of living and the economic conditions of rural workers.

Furthermore, the current linkage of MGNREGA wages to the Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Laborers (CPI-AL) may not accurately reflect inflation trends. The Committee believe that this index does not fully capture the real impact of inflation, and therefore, the method of wage calculation must be reviewed and updated on a priority basis to reflect actual economic conditions at the ground level.

Since MGNREGA is primarily funded by the Central Government, the Committee recommend that the Ministry of Rural Development consider the implementation of a uniform wage rate across all States and Union Territories. This would help ensure fairness and consistency in wage payments under the scheme.

Therefore, the Committee strongly recommend that the Department of Rural Development take immediate steps to revise MGNREGA wage rates by linking them to a more appropriate pricing index and explore the feasibility of establishing a standardized wage rate under MGNREGS at the national level.

Reply of the Government

4.6 "As per Section 6 (1) of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, Central Government may, by notification, specify a separate wage rate for the beneficiary of the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA. The rate is revised on the basis of Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour (CPI-AL).

Government of India has notified the wage rate under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA vide Gazette Notification S.O. 82(E) dated 14th January, 2011 in exercise of the power conferred by Section 6(1) of Mahatma Gandhi NREG Act, using CPI-AL as index and kept the wage rates as these obtained on 1st April, 2009 or Rs.100 whichever is more as the base for indexation for the States.

For protecting the wage against inflation, it has been decided to index the wage rate notified under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA to the Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour (CPI-AL) while maintaining the distinction between the notified wage rate under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA and the minimum wage Act.

However, State Governments can provide wage over and above the wage rate notified by the Central Government. Using the present methodology of wage rate calculation, the central government has notified the wage rate and it has increased by around 5% (average) over the last year and around 29% (average) in the previous 5 years."

(DoRD O.M.No. G-20011/17/2024-B&A Dated 10.06.2025)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 1.14 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation (Serial No. 6)

4.7 The Committee are concerned about the persistent delays in the disbursement of the Centre's share of funds under the wage and material components of MGNREGA across multiple States and Union Territories. As per the information provided by the Department of Rural Development, as of 15.02.2025, the pending liabilities stand at ₹12,219.18 crore in wages, ₹11,227.09 crore in material components and total pending liabilities are ₹23,446.27 crore. This accounts for 27.26% of the current budget, meaning that more than one- fourth of the allocated funds will be used to clear previous years' dues. Consequently, the actual working budget for the current financial year is reduced to ₹62,553.73 crore, significantly limiting the scheme's capacity to function effectively and meet its primary objective of preventing rural distress and ensuring livelihood security.

The Committee find accrual of such liabilities as severe impediments hampering the beneficiaries' plight. While the Committee acknowledge the reasons cited by the Department of Rural Development, such as non-receipt of required documents, these delays in wage payments and fund disbursement create significant hardships for rural workers. Given the scale of MGNREGA, which serves millions of job cardholders across the country, such financial bottlenecks not only impact rural livelihoods but also discourage the most vulnerable sections of society from seeking employment under the scheme.

This, in turn, increases distress migration to urban areas in search of alternative employment opportunities. Therefore, the Committee urge the Department of Rural Development to take immediate steps to ensure the timely release of the Centre's share of funds under wages and materials. The Department must strengthen coordination with State Governments and adopt effective measures to prevent further delays in disbursement.

Reply of the Government

4.8 "The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA), 2005 is a demand driven wage employment programme. Fund release to the States/UTs is a continuous and dynamic process. Funds are released to the States/UTs on the basis of "agreed to" Labour Budget (LB) and performance of the States/UTs during the financial year. Funds are released to the States/UTs normally in two tranches with more than one instalment in one tranche based on agreed Labour Budget (LB), opening balance, pending liabilities of the previous financial year, if any, and overall performance. The first instalment of first tranche is released to the States/UTs in 1st half of April month of the financial year. The 2nd Tranche is released on submission of proposal in the prescribed format by the State and subject to fulfilment of all the prescribed conditions. The proposal can be submitted after a State / UTs has utilized 75 percent of the total available funds. If the proposal for 2nd Tranche is submitted after 30th September, then the Audit Report and Audited UC of the previous financial year are also required. Quantum of funds to be released as part of second tranche depends upon the performance of the State/UTs.

The Central Government has cleared all pending wage liabilities (₹17,251.21 crore) of FY 2024–25 across all States and Union Territories and fund is also being released to all States/UTs for meeting wage payment requirements for the ongoing financial year 2025–26 in a phased manner. It may be noted that the release of funds to States/UTs is a continuous and demand-driven process. The Central Government remains fully committed to ensuring the timely availability of funds in accordance with the demand for work generated on the ground under MGNREGA."

(DoRD O.M.No. G-20011/17/2024-B&A Dated 10.06.2025)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 1.17 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation (Serial No. 7)

4.9 The Aadhaar-Based Payment System (ABPS) facilitates the direct transfer of wages to the bank accounts of unskilled workers under MGNREGA, even in cases where beneficiaries frequently change bank accounts or fail to update their new account details with the concerned Programme Officer. This system has been effective in eliminating fraudulent claims and ensuring that only genuine beneficiaries receive wage payments.

The Committee acknowledge and appreciates the role of ABPS in enhancing transparency and efficiency. However, the Committee firmly believe that this technological intervention should not be made mandatory due to operational challenges that have led to exclusions of genuine beneficiaries. In several instances, workers have been wrongfully removed from the system due to discrepancies between their Aadhaar details and job card records.

Therefore, the Committee recommend that the Department of Rural Development ensure that the Aadhaar-Based Payment System remains optional and that alternative payment mechanisms are made available. This would ensure that workers without Aadhaar or those facing biometric authentication issues continue to receive their rightful wages without compromising the integrity of the scheme.

Reply of the Government

4.10 "ABPS is a route for a payment instruction to follow and finally payment gets credited into the bank account of the beneficiary linked to Aadhaar at last time by the beneficiary. Earlier, ABPS (Aadhaar Based Payment System) conversion was done by MoRD through NPCI Mapper uploads. Now, this functionality is available at the block and GP levels in NREGASoft, enabling Aadhaar authentication and ABPS conversion directly by POs. This streamlined process has removed conversion bottlenecks, with Program Officers now performing daily updates at the block level.

As of now, 11.78 crore Aadhaar (99.58%) have been seeded in NREGASoft, and 11.52 crore workers (97.77%) are ABPS-enabled. Nearly 99.9% of wage payments are made via DBT, with support 95% through ABPS as of March 2025. It is also informed that if any transaction returns from NPCI/Bank with any valid reason for rejection under ABPS then that transaction can be regenerated from NACH (National Automated Clearing House) payment mode. Therefore, there already exists an alternative solution at NREGASoft in the form of NACH Payment mode (i.e. Account Based) for the regeneration of failed transactions under ABPS. The effectiveness of ABPS is evident from the fact that from 1st january,2024 till 25th Feburary,2025 mere 0.41% of transactions have been rejected with reasons such as no such account or account closed in case of ABPS system, whereas the rate of rejection was as high as 8.50% in case of NACH payment mode. This figure clearly demarcates that ABPS system ensures greater transparency and ensures on time payment to the workers.

Further, the Ministry has also strengthened the verification procedures to ensure that all job cards issued are genuine and meet the required criteria. For this, a detailed SOP has been issued to all States/UTs for deletion and restoration of jobcards. The SoP outlines standardized procedures to ensure compliance with the MGNREG Act, promoting transparency, accountability and fairness in the deletion or restoration of job cards and workers.

The Ministry continues monitoring and addressing delays and exclusions due to unseeded Aadhaar, tech issues, or lack of awareness. It is intensifying training, awareness efforts, and KYC compliance, while also upgrading tech and grievance redressal systems. The Committee's recommendation to mandate ABPS supports transparency and efficiency, and the Ministry remains committed to inclusivity, ensuring timely and secure wage disbursement under MGNREGS."

(DoRD O.M.No. G-20011/17/2024-B&A Dated 10.06.2025)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 1.20 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation (Serial No. 8)

4.11 While examining the subject of MGNREGA and during their deliberations, the Committee were apprised about demands from various quarters of the country regarding the increase in the number of days from 100. The Committee also take cognizance of the provision of the scheme through which State Governments can request an additional 50 days of work under MGNREGA to meet the need for work in cases of exigencies arising out of natural calamities.

The Committee take note of this existing provision and is of the view that MGNREGA is a last 'fall-back' option for numerous rural people, and the amount of expenditure under it also elicits a keen interest in the scheme by the poor and marginalized. The scheme needs to be revamped, keeping in view the changing times and emerging challenges.

The Committee are of the firm opinion that the 'need of the hour' is to further diversify the nature of works under MGNREGA in such a manner and through such mechanisms that could also propel the number of guaranteed working days under MGNREGA to at least 150 days from the current 100 days. In light of this, the Committee strongly recommend the Department of Rural Development to review the scheme of MGNREGA in such a way that could ensure an increase in the number of guaranteed days of work from 100 to 150 days.

Reply of the Government

4.12 "Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA), 2005, is an Act to provide for the enhancement of livelihood security of the households in rural areas of the country by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

The Ministry mandates the provision of an additional 50 days of wage employment (beyond the stipulated 100 days) to every Scheduled Tribe Household in a forest area, provided that these households have no other private property except for the land rights provided under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006.

In addition to this, there is a provision for providing up to an additional 50 days of wage employment in a financial year in drought/natural calamity-affected notified rural areas. Further, as per Section 3(4) of the Act, the State Governments may make provision for providing additional days of employment beyond the period guaranteed under the Act from their own funds. States like Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Kerala etc. have a provision to provide over and above 100 days of wage employment from their own resources."

(DoRD O.M.No. G-20011/17/2024-B&A Dated 10.06.2025)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 1.23 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation (Serial No. 12)

4.13 The Committee note that the Ministry of Rural Development has been implementing the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G) since April 1, 2016, as one of the Government's flagship schemes aimed at achieving the vision of 'Housing for All by 2024'. The overall target of the scheme was to construct 2.95 crore houses by 2024, which included 2.04 crore houses from the Socio-Economic

Caste Census (SECC) 2011-based Permanent Wait List (PWL) and 0.91 crore houses from the finalized Awaas+ 2018 survey list.

The Union Cabinet, in its meeting on August 9, 2024, approved the continuation of PMAY-G for five more years to construct 2 crore additional houses, which would cover the remaining eligible households from the SECC 2011 PWL and saturation of the updated Awaas+ (2018) list. Additionally, the houses targeted for completion by March 31, 2024, under the previous phase, must now be completed by March 2025, as per the Cabinet's approval.

While the Committee appreciate the extension of PMAY-G, it expresses serious concern over the allocation of houses under the extended phase. As of October 22, 2024, a total of 2.66 crore houses have been completed, while 29 lakh houses remain pending. A backlog of 1,46,54,267 houses still exists, including 62,54,267 from the SECC-2011 list and approximately 84 lakh from the Awaas+ list. The 2 crore houses approved under the extended phase already account for this backlog of 1.46 crore houses, meaning that, in reality, only 53.45 lakh new houses have been allocated under this phase.

The Committee strongly recommend that the total number of houses planned under the extended phase of PMAY-G be increased to at least 3.46 crore, accounting for both the backlog of 1.46 crore houses and an additional 2 crore houses to ensure fresh allocations beyond the existing backlog. Additionally, given the rise in construction costs and inflationary pressures, the Committee recommend that the per-unit cost of houses under PMAY-G be increased to ₹4 lakh to ensure that beneficiaries receive quality housing that meets minimum standards of safety and durability.

During the course of its examination, the Committee was informed that all houses under the scheme will only be completed by 2029, a timeline the Committee consider highly concerning, as it will cause unnecessary hardship to intended beneficiaries. The Committee also note that in the meantime, the Awaas+ 2024 survey, conducted through the Awaas+ 2024 Mobile App, is being used to identify additional eligible rural households under modified exclusion criteria. As of February 14, 2025, 80,32,731 households have been surveyed by States and Union Territories, raising expectations that many more rural families will be able to secure pucca houses under the scheme.

Given the scale of delays and the existing backlog, the Committee urge the Ministry to take urgent and proactive measures to identify and address the causes of delays. It is imperative to ensure continuous coordination with States and Union Territories to facilitate the timely completion of incomplete and pending houses within the revised deadline. The successful implementation of PMAY-G is crucial for achieving universal housing coverage, and the Committee strongly emphasize that all necessary actions must be taken without further delays to prevent hardship to rural beneficiaries.

Reply of the Government

4.14 "The PMAY-G had an initial target of construction of 2.95 crore houses during FY 2016-24. The initial target was arrived at on the basis of the eligible households as per the Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011database, after verification by the Gram Sabhas, as of 31.03.2016.However, the States and Union Territories (UTs) have remanded the ineligible households and as of 31.03.2024, a total of 2.11 crore households remained as eligible in the SECC 2011 based Permanent Wait List (PWL) of the PMAY-G. The Ministry had allocated target of 2.04 crore houses from the Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011 based Permanent Wait List (PWL) and 0.91 crore houses from the finalized Awaas+ 2018 survey list till 31.03.2024.

With the approval of the Union Cabinet for implementing the next phase of the PMAY-G during FY 2024-25 to 2028-29, the existing SECC 2011 PWL of all States have been saturated with overall target allocation of 2.11 crore houses. In addition, the Ministry has allocated overall target of 3.84 crore houses till 23.04.2025, including target of 0.89 crore houses allocated during FY 2024-25 from the new allocation of 2 crore houses approved by the Union Cabinet. The finalized Awaas+ 2018 survey list of 22 States and Union Territories is already saturated. In addition, a proposal is under consideration for saturating the remaining States by allocation of balance houses/ beneficiaries in Awaas+ 2018 survey list as target during FY 2025-26. A total of 0.62 crore houses is to be allocated to the 10 remaining unsaturated States to saturate their existing Awaas+ 2018 survey list.

The Awaas+ 2024 survey window is open till 30.04.2025. After saturation of existing SECC 2011 PWL and finalized Awaas+ 2018 survey list, approximately a target of 54 lakh houses would remain to be allocated from the Awaas+ 2024 survey lists during this phase of the PMAY-G (till FY 2028-29).

The recommendations of the Standing Committee for increasing target of this phase of the PMAY-G from 2 crore houses to 3.46 crore houses, have been noted. However, there is no proposal under consideration of the Ministry to increase the target for this phase of the PMAY-G (FY 2024-29).

In addition, the unit assistance under the PMAY-G is Rs. 1.20 lakh in plain areas and Rs. 1.30 lakh in Hill States (Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Union

Territories of J&K and Ladakh) and North Eastern States. At present, there is no proposal for revision in the existing unit assistance provided under the PMAY-G.

The major shortcomings faced till date by the PMAY-G are delay in construction of houses due to COVID-19 induced restrictions, delay on part of States/ UTs in releasing of Central & State Share from State Treasury to State Nodal Account of PMAY-G, delay in allotment of land to landless beneficiaries by the States/UTs, cases of unwillingness of beneficiaries, permanent migration, disputed succession, unavailability of building materials and at times General/ Assembly/ Panchayat elections.

The Ministry is taking the following steps to ensure timely completion of houses under PMAY-G:

i. Regular review of progress at the level of Ministry.

ii. Launch of dedicated PMAY-G analytic Dashboard for monitoring and supervision of the scheme.

iii. Timely allocation of targets to the States/UTs and release of adequate funds.

iv. Regular follow ups with the State to ensure release of central and state share of funds and provision of land to landless beneficiaries in rural areas.

v. Awards to the best performing States/UTs, Districts based on performance index dashboard, thereby creating healthy competition and motivation among the States/UTs for achieving the set targets."

(DoRD O.M.No. G-20011/17/2024-B&A Dated 10.06.2025)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 1.26 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation (Serial No. 13)

4.15 The Committee note that the progress and development of the entire country is heavily dependent on robust rural connectivity. The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) was launched with the objective of providing all- weather road connectivity to unconnected habitations, thereby boosting rural infrastructure and economic development. However, it has been observed that a significant number of projects under PMGSY remain incomplete within their designated timeframe, leading to delays in infrastructure development and the benefits reaching the intended beneficiaries.

Such delays even cause an escalation in the project cost due to the inflationary aspect affecting the expenditure on raw materials. Rural roads is a State subject, and the responsibility for the execution and maintenance of PMGSY projects lies with the State Governments, who serve as the implementing authorities. While the Committee acknowledge this, they emphasize the need for stronger coordination mechanisms to ensure the timely release of funds by State Governments, enabling smoother project execution.

Additionally, the Committee note that delays in obtaining clearances from various Ministries, such as the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, have further prolonged the implementation of many PMGSY projects. This bureaucratic bottleneck has been a significant hurdle in the timely execution of road construction projects, affecting the rural populace who rely on improved connectivity for economic and social mobility.

In light of the above facts, the Committee recommend that the Department of Rural Development (DoRD) take proactive measures to expedite the completion of pending PMGSY projects by ensuring effective coordination with State Governments, streamlining approval processes, and facilitating better convergence with other Ministries. The Committee stress that it is imperative for the DoRD to address these issues on a priority basis to ensure that PMGSY projects are completed within stipulated timelines and deliver their intended benefits to rural communities.

Reply of the Government

4.16 "The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) aims to provide all-weather road connectivity to unconnected habitations in rural areas. Over the years, significant progress has been made under PMGSY-I, PMGSY-II, and PMGSY-III. However, certain projects remain pending due to various challenges such as land acquisition issues, difficult terrain, contractor delays, and legal hurdles. The Ministry remains committed to completing all pending projects under PMGSY within the stipulated timelines. With continuous monitoring, policy flexibility, and strategic interventions, efforts are being made to overcome the existing challenges and ensure seamless rural road connectivity across the country.

The progress of implementation of rural roads under PMGSY is regularly reviewed by way of Regional Review Meetings (RRMs), the Performance Review Committee (PRC)Meetings, Pre-Empowered /Empowered Committee Meetings with the States. At District level, the District Development Coordination and Monitoring

Committee (DISHA) headed by a Member of Parliament (LS) monitors the implementation of various schemes of Government of India including PMGSY. In addition to this, special review meetings/monthly review meetings are also held by Secretary/Additional Secretary/Joint Secretaries, Ministry of Rural Development with Chief Secretaries/ Principal Secretaries of the States. In these meetings, hand holding of the State is done and efforts are made to remove the obstacles.

Further, the Ministry of Rural Development has taken the following initiatives to ensure completion of the sanctioned PMGSY Projects within the timeline prescribed in the programme guidelines:

i. The Operational Manual of the PMGSY has been amended to ensure that all works sanctioned under the scheme commence on the ground within 72 days from the date of sanction.
ii. States have been requested to augment their executing capacity and contracting capacity, and their compliance in this regard is regularly reviewed.
iii. Bidding document provisions have been rationalised.
iv. Training is being imparted to field engineers and contractors, as well as their staff, for capacity building.
v. Information Technology is being utilised for monitoring the progress of work."

(DoRD O.M.No. G-20011/17/2024-B&A Dated 10.06.2025)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 1.29 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation (Serial No. 16)

4.17 The Committee note that the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-IV (PMGSY-IV) has been launched for the financial years 2024-25 to 2028-29, with a total outlay of Rs. 70,125 crore (Central Share: Rs. 49,087.50 crore, State Share: Rs. 21,037.50 crore). Under this scheme, 25,000 unconnected habitations with a population size of 500+ in plains, 250+ in NE & Hill States/UTs, special category areas (Tribal Schedule V, Aspirational Districts/Blocks, Desert areas), and 100+ in LWE-affected districts will be covered as per the 2011 Census. It is proposed that 62,500 km of all-weather roads will be provided to these unconnected habitations. Additionally, the construction of required bridges along the alignment of these roads will also be undertaken.

The Committee, however, express concern that the PMGSY-IV road survey is currently based on the outdated 2011 Census, which does not reflect the present population, settlement expansions, and evolving infrastructure needs. Since the new Census has not yet been conducted, the survey lacks an accurate picture of ground realities, leading to ineligible habitations receiving priority while genuine beneficiaries are overlooked.

The Committee therefore recommend that, to ensure equitable rural connectivity, the road survey under PMGSY-IV should be revised based on the latest available population data or an interim assessment. This will help identify true beneficiaries, address infrastructural gaps, and ensure that roads are allocated fairly to areas most in need.

Furthermore, the Committee strongly recommend that the local Member of Parliament (MP) must be consulted before the survey, and each survey must be vetted and approved by the local parliamentary representative. If the authorities fail to do so, it would raise serious concerns about the transparency and inclusivity of the survey process. The Committee emphasize that parliamentary oversight is crucial in ensuring that the road network benefits those who need it the most and that no eligible habitation is left out due to bureaucratic lapses or outdated data.

Reply of the Government

4.18 The CCEA has approved PMGSY-IV with the following stipulations/ norms:-

"Construction of 62,500 Km of all-weather roads (single lane) to provide connectivity to about 25,000 unconnected habitations of population size 500+ in plains, 250+ in NE & Hill States/ UTs, special category areas (Tribal Schedule V, Aspirational Districts/ Blocks, Desert areas), and 100+ in LWE affected districts, as per Census 2011".

Further, Programme guidelines of PMGSY provide that the population of all habitations within a radius of 500 meters (1.5 km of path distance in case of Hills) may be clubbed together to determine the population size. In the block bordering the international boundary in the hill States (as identified by Department of Home Affairs), however, all habitations within a path distance of 10 km may be treated as a cluster for this purpose. This cluster approach would enable the provision of connectivity to a larger number of Habitations, particularly in the Hill/ Mountains areas.

As per the PMGSY-IV norms, the District Rural Roads Block and District level has to be prepared, based on the conducted surveys to identify habitations through the Gram Sadak Survey App, and placed before the District Panchayats. In all these stages the suggestions and proposals from Hon'ble Members of Parliament are to be given due importance.

Ministry of Rural Development vide letter dated 29.01.2025 (English) and 10.02.2025 (Hindi) (Copy Attached at reply to recommendation Serial No. 14) has directed States/ UTs that during the survey process itself, the Project Implementation Unit (PIUs) should apprise the Hon'ble Members of Parliament (both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha as per PMGSY norms) regarding the ongoing survey and give due consideration to their suggestions for inclusion of habitations in DRRP and CNCPL as per the eligibility norms of the programme, para 5.5 of the programme guidelines mention the following:-

5.5 After the CNCPL is prepared and verified it shall be placed before the district Panchayat. The Member of Parliament/ MLA shall be given a copy of the CNPL and their suggestions and the suggestions of lower level Panchayati Raj Institutions shall be given fullest consideration by the District Panchayat while according its approval.

The suggestion of the Hon'ble Members of Parliament regarding the eligible habitations should be duly recorded in MP-I format before submission of proposals to district Panchayat for the approval. This will ensure that the eventual selection of the habitations is comprehensive and it strengthens the planning and implementation under the programme.

Further, this ministry vide letter dated 15.03.2025 has directed the States/UTs to circulate the letter dated 29.01.2025 and 10.02.2025 along with a copy of PMGSY guidelines (English and Hindi) to all Hon'ble Member of Parliament for kind information."

(DoRD O.M.No. G-20011/17/2024-B&A Dated 10.06.2025)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 1.32 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation (Serial No. 17)

4.19 NIRD, established in 1958 as an autonomous organization of the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, acts as a 'think-tank' for the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) by providing critical inputs for policymaking through research, creation of a knowledge base, and capacity building of rural development officials and development practitioners. NIRD has played a facilitating role in rural development flagship programs of MoRD since the inception of the current Ministry. NIRD was registered as a society funded by the Ministry of Rural Development. In 2014, the subject of Panchayati Raj was added to NIRD, making it the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR).

The Committee note that for the year 2024-25, the Budget Estimate (BE) was Rs. 108 crore, which was later reduced to Rs. 73.68 crore at the Revised Estimate (RE) stage, and the actual expenditure remained the same. However, the Committee are perplexed at the Budget Estimate for 2025-26 being only Rs. 1 lakh. From this, it can only be inferred that a major development regarding the future of the institute is being planned.

The Committee are concerned about the fate of the 200-odd employees of this historical institute. In this regard, the Committee have been informed that the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure, has recommended the disengagement of this autonomous organization from the MoRD, with a proposal that the institute be converted into a Centre of Excellence or a deemed university-type setup, generating its own funds. This proposal is still at the discussion stage with NIRDPR.

The Committee desire that, until a concrete decision is taken, the budget allocation be reviewed to ensure the continued functioning of this institute and to allay the fears and anxiety of its employees.

Reply of the Government

4.20 "The Department of Expenditure (Ministry of Finance), Government of India undertook an exercise to rationalize various Central Autonomous Bodies established by the Government of India in line with Rule 229 of General Financial Rules, 2017. A review of the recommendations, carried out by Department of Expenditure, noted in its report AB-4 as below:-

"The Institute has expanded itself over time in terms of it's mandate. Its performance in fulfilling it's primary role of capacity building of rural development functionaries, elected representatives of PRIs, bankers, NGOs and other stakeholders has been satisfactory. The plethora of activities undertaken needs to be continued as NIRD&PR acts as a think-tank providing consultancy services for rural schemes & programmes. Moreover, it has emerged as an internationally recognized center of excellence. It has also taken steps towards long term financial stability by establishing a corpus fund.

It is recommended that NIRD&PR may be disengaged from MoRD/Government of India gradually in terms of financial support and administrative control. It may be converted into a Center of Excellence/Deemed University engaged in training and research. However, Central government may access it's services as a client. Government may give grants based on the functions of the body till it is converted into a deemed, autonomous Institute. Disengagement by the government is recommended with a three year timeline and a gradual budget reduction of 25 % each year."

In compliance of recommendation of Ministry of Finance, a draft cabinet note was circulated among stake holders Ministries/ Department for inter-ministerial consultation on 28.08.2023 and after receiving comments from various Ministries, revised draft cabinet note has been sent to DoE for comments on 03.04.2025. Reply from DoE is awaited."

(DoRD O.M.No. G-20011/17/2024-B&A Dated 10.06.2025)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 1.35 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation (Serial No. 20)

4.21 The National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) is a 100% Centrally Funded Centrally Sponsored Scheme, providing social security assistance to senior citizens, widows, disabled persons, and bereaved families upon the death of the primary breadwinner. The scheme has been continued under the 15th Finance Commission Cycle (2021-26).

The Committee note that the Budget Estimates for NSAP have remained static at Rs. 9,652 crore for the last three financial years, including the current year. The Committee are unable to comprehend the rationale behind not increasing the allocation of funds for NSAP since 2022-23. Given the importance of ensuring adequate financial support for the beneficiaries, the Committee feel that the budgetary allocation must be reviewed.

Therefore, the Committee recommend that the Department of Rural Development submit a new proposal for Cabinet consideration, seeking an upward revision of fund allocation for NSAP. This would ensure that all eligible beneficiaries receive the intended assistance, and the needs of vulnerable sections are effectively addressed.

Reply of the Government

4.22 "The Govt. has approved continuation of NSAP in its present form upto 2025-26. An evaluation study of NSAP schemes for assessing its overall impact and to suggest road map/ recommendations for continuation of the scheme has been initiated, for contemplating the proposal for continuing NSAP beyond March, 2026."

(DoRD O.M.No. G-20011/17/2024-B&A Dated 10.06.2025)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 1.38 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation (Serial No. 22)

4.23 The Committee are aware that District and State-level DISHA meetings are to be conducted once every three months and six months, respectively, to ensure strict oversight of government schemes and to provide a detailed review of their progress through interactions between public representatives and government officials. The primary objective of these meetings is to monitor the effective utilization of government funds for the welfare of the common masses. Given their critical role in governance, these meetings hold paramount importance as a valuable accountability mechanism.

However, the Committee have repeatedly noted glaring irregularities by District and State authorities in holding these meetings as mandated. Despite numerous requests by Members of Parliament, the follow-up on conducting DISHA meetings effectively has been ignored. As of February 15, 2025, only 462 district-level meetings have been conducted for the 2024-25 financial year, which is far below the expected frequency.

Since it is imperative for Members of Parliament to regularly review the implementation status of government schemes in their constituencies, the Committee strongly recommend that the Department of Rural Development establish a robust mechanism to ensure regular convening of DISHA meetings. At a minimum, at least two meetings per year should be mandatorily conducted, with the compulsory attendance of all concerned officers to ensure effective monitoring and accountability.

Reply of the Government

4.24 "Timely convening of the DISHA meeting is crucial for ensuring effective governance and promoting the holistic development of the districts. Recognizing the critical importance of DISHA, Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) is persistently working to ensure that these meetings are convened on a regular basis. All States/UTs have been urged to take necessary actions and instruct the relevant Member Secretaries (District Collectors, Magistrates, Deputy Commissioners) to ensure that District Level DISHA meetings are held as per DISHA guidelines. The Hon'ble Members of Parliament have also been requested from time to time to hold mandated DISHA meetings in their respective districts."

(DoRD O.M.No. G-20011/17/2024-B&A Dated 10.06.2025)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 1.41 of Chapter I of the Report)

CHAPTER V

RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE STILL AWAITED

NIL

(Department of Rural Development O.M.No. G-20011/17/2024-B&A Dated 10.06.2025)

NEW DELHI
8th August, 2025
17 Shraavana, 1947 (Saka)

SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Rural Development & Panchayati Raj

ANNEXURE I

[*Vide* para 4 of Introduction of Report]

ANALYSIS OF THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE FIFTH REPORT (18TH LOK SABHA) OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ

I. Total number of recommendations: 22

II. Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government:

Serial Nos. 1, 3, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 18, 19, 21

Total:10
Percentage: - 45%

III. Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of replies of the Government:

Serial No. NIL

Total: NIL

Percentage:- 0%

IV. Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee:

Serial No. 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 16, 17, 20, 22

Total: 12

Percentage: - 55%

V. Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited:

Serial No. NIL

Total: NIL

Percentage:- 0%