

Udhampur, Kathua, Doda get record number of PMGSY roads

Views of Sarpanches, PRIs being given priority over MLAs/MPs in sanctioning projects: Dr Jitendra

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KATHUA, May 14: Maintaining that work culture in the country has undergone a sea change in the last 7-8 years and projects are now

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being cleared on need-based requirements rather than any other consideration, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh today emphasised that in sanctioning of new road projects, the priority is given to views of Sarpanches and other local



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh reviewing PMGSY projects at Kathua on Saturday.

elected representatives rather than to request made by local MPs or MLAs.

"We have developed a new

work culture in which prioritization of PMGSY roads is decided by Panches, Sarpanches, BDC

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and DDC. MLAs and MP can give suggestions but the final decision will be of PRIs," he said while talking to media persons after reviewing a record 68 roads, completed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) at Kathua, here today.

Dr Jitendra Singh specifically asked the officials of various departments to work in coordination with the PRI members and creating SOPs for better coordination and synergy so that the goal of inclusive development can be achieved.

The Union Minister, who represents Kathua-Udhampur-Doda Parliamentary constituency in the Lok Sabha, reviewed a record 68 roads completed under PMGSY and deferred the formal inauguration due to State mourning observed today as a mark of respect on passing away of UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan.

Dr Jitendra Singh informed that built at a cost of over Rs 547 crore, all-weather roads measuring up to 526 kilometres are likely to benefit a population of over one lakh 20,000 people, most of them living in far-flung hilly areas. He said, despite serious challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, barring few all the projects were completed within stipulated timeframe.

He said, roads are lifeline of a developing nation which will bring benefits in various sectors like education, health, marketing of agricultural produce and will bring many social benefits as well.

The Minister also reviewed the completion work of 22 bridges constructed at a cost of Rs 29.50 crores and the same will also be dedicated to the people soon.

Dr Jitendra Singh also informed that his Parliamentary constituency of Udhampur-Kathua-Doda received the highest allocation of PMGSY grant since

2014 in Jammu and Kashmir. He said, out of the Rs 4,175 crore of the PMGSY central funds for new projects, about Rs 3,884 crore have been allocated, which is nearly two-thirds of the funds for the hilly and inhospitable terrain of Udhampur-Kathua-Doda.

At the review meeting, Dr Jitendra, highlighted the Government's initiatives towards strengthening road connectivity in the UT, and said that it is the firm commitment of present dispensation that every part of the Jammu and Kashmir gets a durable road network for rapid growth and development. He said that the Government was committed to provide the benefit of the schemes like PMAY, PMGSY, and MGN-REGA to the people living in the far off Panchayats and blocks and other difficult areas of Jammu & Kashmir.

DDC Chairperson Udhampur, Lal Chand, DDC Chairperson Doda, Dhanater Singh, DDC Chairperson, Kishtwar, Puja Thakur, DDC Chairperson Ramban, Dr Shamshad Shan and DDC Chairperson Samba, Keshav Sharma also attended the meeting.

The meeting was also attended by DC Kathua, Rahul Pandey, DC Udhampur, Kritika Jyotsna, DC Samba, Anuradha Gupta, DC Ramban, Mussarat Islam, DC Kishtwar, Ashok Kumar Sharma, DC Doda, Vikas Sharma and DC Reasi, Babila Rakwal.

It may be recalled that in September, 2020, Dr Jitendra Singh unveiled 23 roads and bridges projects in Kathua, Doda, Udhampur and Reasi districts in the Jammu region. The projects costing about Rs 73 crore and having length of 111 kilometres benefitted more than 35,000 people in the region. Twenty three projects included 15 roads built under PMGSY for all weather connectivity and 8 bridges for better connectivity to the people.