

# Ministry of Rural Development

## PRESS NOTE

9<sup>th</sup> January 2012

The Ministry of Rural Development has sanctioned 3 road projects using latest Polymer-based technologies, under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in Chhattisgarh. These roads will be constructed using the latest soil stabilization techniques. It is an in-situ method of stabilising the soil with Polymer in the liquid form. The technology has been accredited by Indian Road Congress and also laboratory tests have been carried out at IIT, Kharagpur.

One of the main problems in the construction of roads in remote forested areas is the non-availability of stone aggregate. It was observed during the visit of Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development to Narainpur in Chhattisgarh that the aggregate required for the road construction is brought from at least 100 km away. The stone crushing units and quarries are not available in these areas as most of the land is under "forest" category and therefore, de-reservation procedures have to be followed to divert forest land. These problems have delayed the road construction works in these areas, apart from increasing the costs. Resultant lack of good connectivity has wide implications for the overall development activities and inclusive growth, particularly in such Naxal-affected areas.

Therefore, the Ministry has decided to take up three projects ( costing Rs.7.25 crore) in the district of Dantewada, Bijapur and Narainpur ( Chhattisgarh) using the polymer-based alternative technology will reduce the project implementation period to 6 months. The technology is also expected to be cost-effective and eco-friendly. The main advantage is that the aggregate required for construction can be reduced significantly since the soil is stabilized in-situ using polymer application. **Valuable forest area will thus be saved from diversion.**

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