

## Preface

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As a strategy for poverty alleviation and to overcome deficiencies in rural road planning, the Government of India (GoI) introduced a centrally sponsored scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana' (PMGSY) on 25 December 2000 to provide all-weather road connectivity to eligible unconnected habitations in rural areas. The programme envisaged connectivity to 1.41 lakh habitations with population of 500 persons (250 in case of hill states, tribal and desert areas) and above by the end of Tenth Five Year Plan (2007).

Up to March 2015, out of 1.78 lakh eligible habitations (revised on the basis of survey and policy decision to include habitation with population of 250 persons and above in tribal and backward districts under Integrated Action Plan, etc.), 1.09 lakh habitations were provided with all weather road connectivity. The Ministry planned to connect the remaining 0.69 lakh habitations by March 2019.

The programme was previously reviewed in 2005 and deficiencies in planning, fund utilisation, contract management, quality assurance, maintenance of roads and monitoring were observed. To review the progress of the programme, it was decided to take up the performance audit covering the period from 2010-11 to 2014-15.

The current performance audit disclosed instances of non-adherence to planning procedure, deficiencies in preparation of project proposals, inefficient contract management, poor maintenance of roads, ineffective quality control and online monitoring system.

This report has been prepared for submission to the President of India under Article 151 of the Constitution of India.

The audit has been conducted in conformity with the Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.