

Mumbai  
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## **NABARD PROVIDES RS.16000 CRORES FOR BHARAT NIRMAN**

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) executed a tripartite agreement with Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), GoI and National Rural Roads Development Agency (NRRDA) for providing a loan of Rs.16,000 crore for the rural roads component of Bharat Nirman. This will facilitate bridging the funding gap requirement in the rural roads component of Bharat Nirman and will be provided out of a special window created under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF).

NABARD has sanctioned loan aggregating Rs.64,000 crore for implementation of nearly 2.6 lakh rural infrastructure projects by various State Governments.

The agreement was signed by Shri Amaresh Kumar, Executive Director, NABARD, Shri J.K. Mohapatra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development and Smt. Gargi Kaul, Director (Finance), NRRDA.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Y.S.P. Thorat, Chairman, NABARD expressed his pleasure in associating NABARD with the Flag Ship Programme of GoI which is aimed at upscaling rural infrastructure quality. He mentioned that the Bharat Nirman is a time bound business plan of GoI for rural infrastructure creation covering rural connectivity, electrification, water supply, irrigation, housing and telephone connectivity involving a total financial outlay of Rs.1,74,000 crore over a period of four years. Under the component of rural connectivity, it is envisaged to connect all villages that have a population of 1000 (500 in hilly / tribal areas) with a road by the end of March 2009.

The National Committee on Rural Infrastructure had decided to create a separate window under RIDF in NABARD to fund the rural road component of Bharat Nirman to the extent of Rs.16000 crore rupees in four years. GoI has selected NRRDA to act as a channelising agency for the funds to the State Governments / implementing agencies and to monitor timely implementation of the programme under Prime Minister's Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

NABARD has, in principle agreed to extend credit support upto Rs.16000 crores to NRRDA, of which, it has already sanctioned adequate funds, said Shri Amaresh Kumar after executing the agreement. The funds are to be released shortly in a phased manner.