

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:282
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2005
REPORT ON MPLAD SCHEME
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Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Institute of Social Studies, New Delhi has released a report in regard to Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is contemplating to bring about any change in the said scheme; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE), MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES)

(a)&(b) The Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi has published in February, 2005 a 174 page report titled `MPLADS - Concept, Confusion, Contradictions` by Shri Era Sezhiyan, a Senior Fellow of the Institute. A copy of the report has been placed in the Library of the Parliament. This report examines: salary, allowances and facilities of MPs, concepts and implications of MPLADS Guidelines, fund allocations, expenditure patterns, Parliamentary Committees` reports, evaluation reports, constitutional issues, political aspects, and shortcomings of the Scheme.

(c)&(d) The Government is considering to improve and bring out revised Guidelines. In order to bring about improvement in the implementation of the MPLAD Scheme, inter-active discussions were held with the Hon`ble Members of Parliament in five batches during August and December, 2004. More than 200 Members of Parliament attended and gave valuable suggestions which are being taken into account for revising the Guidelines on MPLADS.

For effective monitoring of the Scheme, Chief Secretaries/Administrators of the State Governments/UT Administrations have been requested to ensure that regular review meetings are held at the State/UT and district level. In addition, officers of the Ministry have conducted Scheme review meetings with the officials of the State and UT Governments at the State/UT as well as national capitals. Also, on-line computerized monitoring system has been launched on 30th November, 2004, which will be fully operationalised shortly.