

**COMMITTEE ON MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT LOCAL
AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (2012-13)**

FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA

**MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND
PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION**

**(Action Taken by the Government on the
recommendations contained in the Ninth Report of
Committee on MPLADS (15th Lok Sabha) on the
subject "Procedures on provision of MPLADS funds
for Natural Calamities")**

TWELFTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

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Presented to Lok Sabha on 20 August, 2013



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

August, 2013/ Shravana, 1935 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT LOCAL
AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (LOK SABHA) 2012-13**

Shri A.K.S. Vijayan - Chairman

MEMBERS

2. Shri Ghanshyam Anuragi
3. Shri K.C. Singh "Baba"
4. Shri Raj Babbar
5. Shri Pulin Bihari Baske
6. Shri Kuvarjibhai M. Bavalia
7. Smt. Bijoya Chakravarty
8. Shri Dara Singh Chauhan
9. Shri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain
10. Shri K. Sugumar
11. Shri Anant Kumar Hegde
12. Shri Basori Singh Masram
13. Shri Raghuveer Singh Meena
14. Shri Gopinath Munde
15. Shri Sanjay Dina Patil
16. Shri Arjun Ray
17. Shri Rudramadhab Ray
18. Shri Modugula Venugopala Reddy
19. Prof. Saugata Roy
20. Shri S.D. Shariq
21. Shri Balkrishna Khanderao Shukla
22. Chaudhary Lal Singh
23. Shri Thirumaavalavan
24. Shri Harsh Vardhan

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri V.R. Ramesh - Joint Secretary
2. Shri D.R. Shekhar - Director
3. Shri C. Kalyanasundaram - Deputy Secretary

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Committee on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) (2012-13) having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Twelfth Report on the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations of the Committee contained in their Ninth Report (15th Lok Sabha) on the subject "Procedures on provision of MPLADS funds for natural calamities" relating to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

2. The Ninth Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 9 August, 2012. The Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation furnished their Action Taken Notes on the observations/recommendations contained in the Report on 30 November, 2012 and 23 May, 2013 respectively.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 13 August, 2013.

4. An analysis of the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Ninth Report (15th Lok Sabha) of the Committee (2011-12) is given in *Appendix II*.

New Delhi
14 August, 2013
23 Shravana, 1935 (Saka)

A.K.S. VIJAYAN
Chairman,
Committee on Members of Parliament
Local Area Development Scheme
Lok Sabha

REPORT

CHAPTER I

1.1 This Report of the Committee on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in their Ninth Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on the subject "Procedures on provision of MPLADS funds for natural calamities" relating to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

1.2 The Ninth Report which was presented to Lok Sabha on 9 August, 2012, contained 17 observations/recommendations. Action Taken Replies received from the Government in respect of all Observations/Recommendations have been categorized as follows:-

(i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government :-

Para Nos. - 5.1, 5.4, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9 & 5.10 **(Total 06)**

(ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's reply :-

Para Nos. - 5.2, 5.11, 5.16 & 5.17 **(Total 04)**

(iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee which require reiteration :-

Para Nos. - 5.3, 5.12, 5.13, 5.14 & 5.15 **(Total 05)**

(iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited :-

Para Nos. - 5.5 & 5.6 **(Total 02)**

1.3 The Committee trust that utmost seriousness will be shown by the Ministries concerned while implementing the observations/recommendations accepted by the Government. In cases where it is not possible for the Ministry to implement the observations/recommendations in letter and spirit for any reason whatsoever, the matter should be reported to the Committee with reasons for non-implementation. The Committee further desire that the Action Taken Notes on the observations/recommendations contained in Chapter I of this Report and the final Action Taken Reply in respect of the recommendations included in Chapter V of this Report should be furnished to them within three months of the presentation of this Report.

1.4 In reply to the recommendations contained in Para Nos. 5.5 & 5.6 of the Ninth Report, the Ministry has stated that these recommendations are appropriate. However, decisions on them will be taken by it on receipt of views of Rajya Sabha Committee on MPLADS. Accordingly, these recommendations have been included in Chapter V of this Report. The Ministry should furnish comprehensive action taken replies to these recommendations as they are aimed at timely reaching of intended benefits to the people affected by the natural calamities.

1.5 The Action Taken Notes furnished by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation have been reproduced in the relevant chapters of this Report. The Committee will now deal with the action taken by the Government on some of their observations/recommendations in the succeeding paragraphs.

A. Increase in ceilings for contribution to natural calamities.

(Para 5.3)

1.6 The Committee were dissatisfied to note that there was no proposal with the Ministry to increase the annual ceilings of Rs.10 lakh for permissible works outside the constituency but within a State and Rs.50 lakh in the event of a

calamity of severe nature in any part of the country. Since the annual allocation of MPLADS funds had been increased to Rs.5 crore, the Committee recommended that the provision in para 2.7 of the extant guidelines might be increased to Rs.50 lakh to enable Members of Lok Sabha to recommend MPLADS funds anywhere outside his/ her constituency within the State for rehabilitation works and upto Rs.1 crore in case of "calamity of severe nature" which may occur anywhere in the country.

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has stated in its Action Taken Notes as under:-

"The Ministry has examined the suggestion for enhancement in ceilings. It has been decided that the current ceilings of Rs. 10 lakh and Rs. 50 lakh per MP are sufficient and appropriate at present."

1.7 The Committee are constrained to note that the Ministry has not adduced any reason for not increasing the current ceilings for contribution from MPLADS funds in the event of natural calamities. The current annual ceilings of Rs.10 lakh for permissible works outside the constituency but within a State and Rs.50 lakh in the event of a calamity of severe nature in any part of the country are in existence since 2005 the time when the annual entitlement of MPLADS funds was Rs. 2 Crore. Eventhough the Committee has recommended for increase in the above ceilings commensurate with the increase in annual allocation to Rs. 5 crore with effect from 2011-12, the Ministry has taken the position that the current ceilings are sufficient and appropriate at present. In the absence of any justification for this stand, the Committee find it very appropriate to increase the above ceilings particularly when take into consideration the cost escalation of raw materials, labour charges etc. Moreover, this increase would only be an enabling provision. It is for the Members of parliament to decide actual contribution from their MPLADS funds depends on the availability of funds in their accounts after necessary allocations for their constituencies. Since the increase in ceilings would enable MPs to contribute more for rehabilitation of the areas affected by a natural calamity, the Committee reiterate the recommendation that the financial

ceilings laid down in Para-2.7 and Para 2.8 of the MPLADS Guidelines may be revised upward to Rs.50 lakh and Rs.1 Crore respectively at the earliest.

B. Status of Utilisation of funds consented for various natural calamities.

(a) Gujarat Earthquake

(Para 5.12)

1.8 The Committee noted that the Members of Parliament came forward as a united force and contributed generously from their MPLADS funds for the rehabilitation of areas devastated by the Gujarat earthquake in 2001. Both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Members contributed about Rs. 49 crore for the purpose. HUDCO and NBCC were selected as implementing agencies. Both these agencies had completed the works assigned to them. Out of the unspent balance of funds contributed by Lok Sabha MPs, it was decided to construct 305 Anganwadis. Work on 272 Anganwadis had been completed. In that regard, it was disheartening to note that the work on construction of 25 Anganwadis was yet to start due to land related reasons. Even after 11 years, the State Government was unable to find solution to land related problems and that showed the seriousness with which the matter was dealt with by both the Union and State Governments. The Committee had recommended in that regard that expeditious steps should be taken by the Ministry and the State Government to find a solution to the problem including finalization of new sites for execution of works within the financial year.

1.9 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has stated in its Action Taken Notes as under:-

"The Government of Gujarat had reported an unspent balance of Rs. 1152.61 lakh as on 31.07.2005. On the proposal of Government of Gujarat, approval was communicated for construction of 305 anganwadis from out of the balance amount. Government of Gujarat vide their letters dated 23.01.2012 and 10.07.2012 forwarded Utilization and Completion Certificates for 239 anganwadis at a cost of Rs. 6,11,34,910/-. Utilization and Completion Certificates in respect of the remaining anganwadis are awaited from the State Government. Further, Government of Gujarat vide their letter dated 11.08.2011 informed that an amount of Rs. 9.42 crore was still available with them from the funds committed for Gujarat earthquake rehabilitation works. The Ministry had been regularly requesting the State Government for sending proposals of projects to be undertaken with the balance unutilized amount of Rs. 9.42 crore. The State Government has recently vide their letter dated 06.04.2013 forwarded a proposal for rehabilitation works in earthquake affected districts of Kutch, Rajkot, Patan and Banaskantha for an amount of Rs. 1557.96 lakh. This proposal is under examination/consideration."

1.10 The Committee are concerned to note that Utilisation Certificates have still not been furnished by the Government of Gujarat in respect of 66 Anganwadis out of 305 Anganwadis approved for construction from MPLADS funds for rehabilitation of areas affected by the Gujarat Earth Quake. Earlier the Committee were informed that the work on 272 Anganwadis was completed and the work on 25 anganwadis is yet to start due to land related problems. In this regard, no information has been given by the Ministry whether any solution was found to this problem as recommended by the Committee. Instead the Ministry has furnished the above information which shows that the State Government has not yet furnished utilisation certificate to the funds to the tune of Rs.5.42 crore which is still available with it. The Committee note with dissatisfaction that an amount of Rs.9.42 crore is also lying with the State Government. In this regard It has recently submitted proposals to the Ministry for rehabilitation works in the earthquake affected districts. It is a matter of serious concern that both the Ministry and the State Government have not taken prompt steps to use the funds consented by the Members of Parliament for rehabilitation/reconstruction works. As a result, about Rs.15 crore is still remains unutilized with the State Government even after twelve years. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Ministry should take immediate steps for completion of work on all 305 Anganwadis within this year. In regard to the utilization of Rs.9.42 crore, the Ministry should ensure that the proposals submitted by the State Government for rehabilitation works in the affected districts are approved on time and the works are executed within a year from the date of approval. The Committee should be informed about the progress made in both the above cases.

(Para 5.13)

1.11 The Committee took a serious note that the Government of Gujarat had not submitted proposals of the works to be undertaken out of the unspent balance of Rs. 9.42 crore lying with it despite several reminders by the Ministry. The Earthquake occurred in 2001. It is sad that a portion of MPLADS funds

consented by MPs with the sole aim of rehabilitation of the areas affected by the Earthquake remained utilized with the State Government. The Ministry was simply sending reminders to the State Govt. to submit the work proposals and was in a hapless position to initiate any action against the senior officers of the State Government who ignored the reminders. In Committee's view, the Ministry should have taken strict action against those officers responsible for inordinate delay in submission of work proposals. Such inordinate delays defeat the very purpose of MPLADS funds contributed by the Members of Parliament. To remedy the situation the Committee recommended the following :-

- (i) In case any MPLADS funds contributed by MPs for rehabilitation works remain unutilized with the State Governments beyond a period of one year from the date of pooling of the funds, the funds should be transferred back to the respective constituencies of the MPs who had made contribution from their MPLADS funds.
- (ii) In the case of Gujarat, the observations made by this Committee may be sent to the Chief Secretary, Gujarat. A definite time frame may be fixed for utilization of the funds. In case the government is unable to utilize the funds by the stipulated date, the funds may be withdrawn and may be sent back to the nodal Districts of the concerned MPs for utilization elsewhere.

1.12 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has stated in its Action Taken Notes as under:-

"The MPLADS funds are made available to the State Governments/District Authorities for rehabilitation/reconstruction works in calamities, as are permissible under the Guidelines of MPLADS. The implementation of the works is primarily the responsibility of the State Government/District Authority concerned. Once funds are committed from MPLADS, the State Government/District Authority duly takes them into consideration in their overall efforts for rehabilitation and reconstruction. It might not be feasible to subsequently withdraw the earlier committed funds from the State Government/District Authority unless and until the State Government/District Authority itself refunds the same as surplus/excess. The Committee's observations have been forwarded to the Chief Secretary of Government of Gujarat for appropriate action."

1.13 The Committee do not agree with the stand taken by the Ministry that it might not be feasible to withdraw the funds committed for rehabilitation/reconstruction works in the areas affected by natural calamities without

assigning any reasons. The Ministry allows the State Government/District Authority to keep the funds for an indefinite period of time and to refund the same only if they consider it surplus. However, the Committee are not inclined to accept that it is not feasible to the Ministry to withdraw the funds once committed even if the State Government concerned kept the fund unutilised for more than a decade. Gujarat earth quake occurred in 2001 and it is distressing to note that the State Government is still not able to spend about Rs.15 crore. Such inordinate delays in the utilization of funds recommended for rehabilitation work in natural calamity affected areas, give rise to a question whether it is necessary to undertake the rehabilitation works even after the lapse of considerable period of time. MPLADS funds allocated to an MP have a specific purpose of development of areas demarcated under his/her Constituency. In the case of natural calamities, this resource is diverted to mitigate the sufferings of the people affected by the calamities in a time bound manner. Hence, the very purpose of recommending MPLADS funds for the affected areas is defeated if the works are not identified and executed within a definite time period. Since it is essential that the works are identified and executed within a definite time frame otherwise the people affected by the natural calamities are deprived from the timely benefits to be accrued to them. The Committee reiterate that in case any MPLADS funds contributed by MPs remain unutilized with the State Governments beyond a stipulated period of time from the date of pooling of the funds, the funds should be transferred back to the respective constituencies of the MPs. For the purpose, if necessary Govt. should bring necessary amendments in the MPLADS guidelines.

(b) Kosi floods in Bihar

1.14 Extensive damage was caused by the unprecedented and devastating flood in Kosi river on August 18, 2008. Since the calamity was declared as a calamity of severe nature, 156 Lok Sabha MPs and 173 Rajya Sabha MPs had consented to contribute Rs. 22.05 crore and 22.81 crore (totaling Rs. 44.86 crore) for rehabilitation/reconstruction works in the affected areas. The

recommendation made by the Committee on the progress of rehabilitation works was given in para 5.14 of the Ninth Report.

(Para 5.14)

1.15 The Committee were concerned to note that no information was received by the ministry about the progress of rehabilitation works in the areas affected by Kosi floods from the Govt. of Bihar despite issue of several reminders by it. Earlier the process of identification of works was also inordinately delayed by the State Government, which resulted in cost escalation of Disaster-cum-Community-Shelters and Cattle Shelters identified for construction. The State Government had also changed the construction sites earlier approved by the Ministry. Even after the approval of works at new sites at the escalated cost, no information was available whether the works have been carried out or not. This is a serious situation where the State Government is not showing any interest even though the Members of Parliament have contributed their scarce MPLADS funds for the welfare of the people of the affected area. In this regard, the Committee had recommended that the Ministry should send a team of officers of the Ministry to inspect the progress of works in the State. In case, the works had already started, they should be asked to complete the works within a definite time frame. In case, the works were not yet started, the Government of Bihar should be asked to transfer the funds immediately back to the Ministry for distribution to the constituencies of the MPs who had contributed for rehabilitation works.

1.16 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has stated in its Action Taken Notes as under:-

"The State Government of Bihar vide their letter dated 8th February 2013 have informed that only an amount of Rs. 10.62 crore has been received by the three Kosi flood affected districts of Saharsa, Supaul and Madhepura.

The districts of Saharsa and Supaul vide their letters dated 17.08.2012 and Madhepura vide their letter dated 16.08.2012 informed that land for construction of disaster shelters and cattle shelters in many cases has been identified and further action in this regard is being taken by the district authorities with the available funds.

The State Government/District Authorities concerned have to follow-up the matter of receiving the committed funds from the nodal districts concerned. The Ministry, on its part, also monitors and co-ordinates the same. However, detailed information from Madhepura district in respect of the funds received from the nodal districts of the MPs who have committed funds has not been received. The matter is being followed up with the District Authority of Madhepura. Once information is received from the District Authority of Madhepura, then, after reconciliation, the nodal districts from which funds have not been received would be directed by the Ministry also to send the funds without any further delay.

The Committee's observations have been forwarded to the Chief Secretary of Government of Bihar for appropriate action."

1.17 The Committee are deeply concerned to note that out of Rs.44.86 crore (Rs.22.05 crore by Lok Sabha MPs and Rs22.81 crore by Rajya Sabha MPs) consented by the Members of Parliament for reconstruction works in the areas affected by Kosi floods during August,2008, only Rs.10.62 crore has been received by the affected districts from the nodal districts. In this regard, the Committee deprecate the tendency of the Ministry to pass the buck on the State Governments/district authorities as it has stated that they have to follow up the matter of receiving the committed funds from the nodal districts concerned. The Committee are of the view that Ministry should not feel contented mere playing a role of coordinator and monitor in execution of MPLAD Scheme particularly on matter of severe calamity rather they should play efficacious role with nodal district so that the present situation of non receipt of consented amount even after five years of occurrence of the natural calamity would not have arisen. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should take immediate steps to reconcile the entire information regarding recommendation, release and the receipt of funds for the natural calamity and to ensure that the funds are released immediately by the nodal districts. The Committee also recommend that a provision should be made in the guidelines that the funds consented by the MPs for natural calamities should be released immediately by the nodal districts concerned on receipt of information in that regard from the Ministry and in any case not later than one month.

1.18 The Committee also note that the land for construction of disaster shelters and cattle shelters in many cases has been identified by the affected districts viz. Saharsa, Supaul and Madhepura and further action in this regard is being taken by the district authorities with the available funds. It is a matter of serious concern that land has only been identified even after five years and such inordinate delays in execution of reconstruction/rehabilitation works defeats the very purpose of recommending funds for natural calamities. The Committee in this regard recommend that effective steps should be taken by the Ministry that to construct all the disaster and cattle shelters within the current year.

(C) Cyclone Aila – West Bengal

(Para 5.15)

1.19 The Committee are also concerned that even three years after the AILA Cyclone hit the State of West Bengal, 30 works out of 81 works sanctioned for North 24 Parganas district and 56 works out of 73 works sanctioned for South 24 Parganas district are yet to be completed when information in that regard was furnished to the Committee. In this regard, the Committee expect that expeditious steps will be taken by the Ministry to complete the works during the current year. Information in this regard should be furnished to the Committee.

1.20 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has stated in its Action Taken Notes as under:-

"The State Government of West Bengal have informed vide their letter dated 9th August 2011 that 51 works out of 81 in North 24 Parganas district and 17 works out of 73 works in South 24 Parganas district have been completed.

The Committee's observations have been forwarded to the Chief Secretary of Government of West Bengal for appropriate action."

1.21 The Committee regret to note that the Ministry does not have updated information about the progress of execution of rehabilitation/reconstruction works in the areas affected by the Aila

Cyclone in West Bengal. The Committee are perturbed to note that the Ministry have furnished the deficient information up to August, 2011. Hence, it is obvious that the Ministry have not made any initiative even to know the updated progress of work in the area affected by Aila Cyclone. The Committee take a serious view of such lackadaisical approach of the Ministry in carrying out the rehabilitation works in a time bound manner. Since the cyclone hit that State during May, 2009, the Committee had specifically recommended that expeditious steps should be taken by the Ministry to complete the rehabilitation works during 2012. The only action taken by the Ministry in this regard was forwarding the recommendation to the Chief Secretary for appropriate action. The Committee expect that the updated position in regard to the execution of works would be obtained by the Ministry from the State Government and hope that expeditious steps would also be taken by the Ministry in coordination with the State Government to complete all the works before the end of this year. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress made in this regard.

CHAPTER - II

Observations/recommendations which have been accepted by the Government

Observations/Recommendations (Para 5.1)

2.1 The Committee are glad to note that the provision for allowing MPLADS funds for carrying out rehabilitation works in the areas affected by natural calamities was incorporated by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in the MPLAD Scheme guidelines after the super cyclone hit Odisha in the year 1999 on the recommendations of the MPLADS Committees of Parliament. Presently, there are two provisions in the MPLAD Scheme guidelines. As per the first provision, Lok Sabha MPs from the non-affected areas of the State can also recommend permissible works upto a maximum of Rs.10 lakh per annum in the affected areas in that State. The second provision provides that in the event of "Calamity of severe nature" in any part of the country, an MP can recommend works upto a maximum of Rs.50 lakh for the affected district. Since 1999, the Members of Parliament have contributed generously from their MPLADS fund for rehabilitation works in the areas devastated by various natural calamities of severe nature. The Committee feel that it is necessary to spend the amount consented by Members of Parliament to create durable assets expeditiously so as to benefit the people affected by the natural calamities. The Committee, therefore, selected and examined this subject on priority basis. The observations and recommendations of the Committee have been given in the succeeding paragraphs of the Report.

Observations/Recommendations (Para 5.4)

2.2 The Committee are concerned to note that the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation issues the appeal of the Minister of Statistics and Programme Implementation after a gap of several days after the occurrence of a natural calamity of severe nature. This appeal is issued to Members of the Parliament to contribute from their MPLADS funds for carrying out rehabilitation works in the areas affected by natural calamities. The appeal was issued after 24 days in the case of Kosi floods, 21 days after Leh cloud burst and 19 days after Sikkim earthquake. Since the appeal is made after considerable delay, other procedures, viz, pooling of funds, identification of works and their execution are delayed further thereby benefits reach the affected people very late. Consequently, the MPLADS funds which are diverted from their respective constituencies by the Members of Parliament to carry out rehabilitation works in the affected areas, remain unutilized for a long time. Such delays defeat the very purpose of providing quick relief to the people affected by natural calamities. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should issue the appeal of the Minister for contributions out of the MPLADS funds within a week from the date of declaration of a natural calamity as a severe one by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Reply of the Government

2.3 The suggestion has been noted.

(vide Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation OM No. C-53/2012 – MPLADS dated 23.05.2013)

Observations/Recommendations (Para 5.7)

2.4 The Committee take a serious note that Rs. 9.42 crore contributed by MPs from their MPLADS fund for Gujarat Earth quake and Rs. 5.21 crore contributed for Tsunami Relief Works which occurred in 2001 and 2004, respectively, were still lying with the concerned State Governments when the information in that regard was furnished to the Committee. This situation has arisen due to non stipulation of any time-limit in the MPLADS guidelines for identification, execution and completion of rehabilitation works in the affected areas. Presently the District Authority of the affected district is required to follow the extant MPLADS guidelines for implementation including the time frame for completion of the works. As per the extant guidelines the time limit for completion of the works should generally not exceed one year. In this regard, the Committee are of the firm view that prescription of a separate time frame for identification, execution and completion of MPLADS works in the areas affected by natural calamities is essential to ensure timely reach of benefits to the affected people. Otherwise, the very purpose of diverting MPLADS funds by the Members of Parliament from their respective Lok Sabha Constituencies for rehabilitation works in the affected areas would be defeated if the funds are not utilized in time for creation of durable assets which are necessary in the affected areas. The Committee, therefore, recommend that provisions should be made in the MPLADS guidelines to the effect that the rehabilitation works should be identified in the areas affected by natural calamities by the nodal department within a month of pooling MPLADS funds and that the works should be completed by the concerned District Authority within eight months. In the cases of works which may require more time to complete, the nodal department in consultation with the Ministry may allow more time for completion of such works. The Ministry should closely monitor the progress of the works and take corrective steps for timely completion of works.

Reply of the Government

2.5 Reply 5.7 and 5.8: Para 6.2(viii), Para 6.3(xi) and Para 6.4(x) have been incorporated in the Guidelines vide circular dated 12th March 2013 (copy enclosed at Annexure I).

(vide Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation OM No. C-53/2012 – MPLADS dated 23.05.2013)

Observations/Recommendations (Para 5.8)

2.6 The Committee deprecates the knee jerk reaction of the Ministry to a particular matter only when the Committee raise it. In the instant case, the Ministry had written to the State Governments concerned only after the Committee enquired whether the State level review meetings of State's Chief Secretary have been held with District Officials to monitor the works in calamity affected areas. Apart from review during the bi-annual review meetings, the Ministry should ensure regular review at State level about the physical and financial progress of rehabilitation works. Present provision in para 6.3 (i) of the guidelines provides for overall review of the MPLAD Scheme implementation progress at the State level. In this regard the Committee feel that both the Ministry and the nodal department should specifically review the progress of rehabilitation works so as to ensure their timely completion. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the following provisions should be made in the MPLAD Scheme guidelines at appropriate places:-

- (i) The Ministry should review periodically the physical and financial progress of MPLADS funds provided for rehabilitation of areas affected by natural calamities and take up the matter with the State Governments concerned for timely execution of MPLADS works.
- (ii) State level monitoring Committee should specifically review the physical and financial progress MPLADS funds provided for execution of rehabilitation works in the areas affected by natural calamities.
- (iii) Nodal Department in the State should ensure submission of Monthly Progress Report specifically on utilization of MPLADS funds for carrying out rehabilitation works by the affected districts to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

Reply of the Government

2.7 Reply 5.7 and 5.8: Para 6.2(viii), Para 6.3(xi) and Para 6.4(x) have been incorporated in the Guidelines vide circular dated 12th March 2013 (copy enclosed at Annexure I).

(vide Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation OM No. C-53/2012 – MPLADS dated 23.05.2013)

Observations/Recommendations (Para 5.9)

2.8 The Committee note that the Ministry undertakes a separate review with the concerned nodal Secretaries of the State/UT Governments during bi-annual review meetings on physical and financial progress of works undertaken from the MPLADS funds contributed by MPs for the rehabilitation works in areas affected by the calamities of severe nature. However, perusal of the information provided

by the Ministry on the status of utilization of MPLADS funds consented by MPs for various calamities, viz. Gujarat Earthquake, Tsunami, Kosi River floods, etc. does not provides a convincing picture. The Committee are constrained to note the inordinate delay in utilization of MPLADS funds contributed by MPs for carrying out rehabilitation works in the areas affected by natural calamities of severe nature. In such a scenario, the present bi-annual review by the Ministry is not adequate. The Committee, therefore, recommend that apart from regular monitoring through correspondence and field visits, quarterly review of physical and financial progress of works sanctioned in the areas affected by natural calamities should be undertaken at Secretary level by the Ministry. During this review, the issues relating to execution of rehabilitation works may be taken up through video conferencing with the Chief Secretary/Secretary of the nodal department and the District Authorities of the affected districts of the concerned State/UT.

Reply of the Government

2.9 Para 6.2(viii) has been incorporated in the Guidelines vide circular dated 12th March 2013. (copy enclosed at Annexure I).

(vide Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation OM No. C-53/2012 – MPLADS dated 23.05.2013)

Observations/Recommendations (Para 5.10)

2.10 The Committee note with dissatisfaction that the Ministry has not taken up concurrent monitoring of the works sanctioned for the natural calamity area. However, it is learnt from the submission made by the Ministry that it has engaged NABARD Consultancy Services for direct physical monitoring of MPLADS works on sample basis in selected districts which also covers works undertaken in the areas affected due to natural calamities. In this regard, the Committee are constrained to observe that no information has been furnished by the Ministry whether any works relating to natural calamities were monitored by NABCONS, their findings and the action taken thereon. Since the Ministry is unable to monitor the work implementation on its own, it is essential to monitor the work implementation through NABCONS or through any other third party. The Committee, therefore, recommend that specific reference should be made to NABCONS to monitor the physical and financial progress of the rehabilitation works undertaken in the areas affected by natural calamities. The Committee further recommend that the officers of the nodal department should be assigned a definite responsibility in the form of guidelines to monitor the MPLADS funds contributed by MPs are utilized timely by the district authorities for execution of rehabilitation works.

Reply of the Government

2.11 Para 6.2(ix), Para 6.3(xi) and Para 6.4 (x) have been incorporated in the Guidelines vide circular dated 12th March 2013 (copy enclosed at Annexure I).

It may be mentioned that it would not be possible to mention the name of the agency for the third party monitoring since the agency is selected through tender process each time.

(vide Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation OM No. C-53/2012 – MPLADS dated 23.05.2013)

CHAPTER - III

Observations/recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies.

Observations/Recommendations (Para 5.2)

3.1 The Committee note that no criteria has been laid down in the Disaster Management Act, 2005 for deciding whether a calamity is of a severe nature or not. The Ministry of Home Affairs adjudges a calamity of severe nature on case to case basis taking into account the intensity and magnitude of the calamity, capacity of the State Government to tackle the problem, etc. and this practice according to the Ministry of Home Affairs, poses no difficulty in declaring a calamity as of severe nature. The Committee further note the submission of the Ministry of Home Affairs that laying down of a criteria for declaring a calamity of severe nature will lead to insurmountable difficulties and is likely to reduce flexibility in determination of different / varying situations. However, the Committee are of the firm view that there should be a definite time frame to declare a natural calamity as a severe one. Presently no time frame has been prescribed in this regard in the Disaster Management Act, 2005. In the case of Leh cloud burst, the calamity was declared as of severe nature within three days from the date of receipt of request to that effect from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariats. The Committee feel that it is important for the Ministry of Home Affairs to assess the enormity of a calamity, capacity of the State Government to respond to the situation, resources needed for rehabilitation works, etc. on a war footing basis and the Ministry should *suo-moto* declare the calamity as a severe nature without waiting for the requests/ references from other agencies. This will help all the concerned agencies to play their respective role in carrying out rehabilitation works in time. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the natural calamities such as earthquakes, floods, landslides, tsunami, etc. which occur suddenly, should be assessed by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the declaration whether a calamity is of a severe nature or not, should be made within three days from the date of occurrence of the calamity. In the cases of natural calamities which occur over a period of time such as drought, pest attack, etc., the Ministry concerned should expeditiously assess the impact and declare them as calamities of severe nature at the earliest. Necessary amendment should also be made in the Disaster Management Act, 2005 in this regard.

Reply of the Government

3.2 In order to consider or adjudge a natural calamity as a calamity of "severe nature" the Government of India takes into account, inter alia, the intensity and magnitude of the calamity, level of relief assistance, capacity of the State Government to tackle the calamity, the alternatives and flexibility available within the Plans to provide succor and relief, etc. The inputs relating to these factors are mainly based on the damage report submitted in the form of memorandum by the State government concerned and also the quantum of relief assistance, both

logistic and financial, provided by the various Ministries/Departments of the Central Government to the affected State/States.

In any disaster, it is the responsibility of the State Government to undertake rescue and relief operation. Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Government, where necessary, by extending financial and logistic support. Since the declaration of calamity as a calamity of "severe nature or otherwise" is primarily based on the damage assessment made by the State in affected areas. Therefore, for the initial 2-3 days of the disaster/calamity the State machinery is fully engaged in the rescue and relief efforts in the affected areas, as such to get the details relating to assessment of damages caused due to the calamity from State Government is very difficult. For instance in the case of floods it is practically impossible to access the flood affected areas and make assessment of the damages caused until the water recedes, and it may take number of days for the flood water to recede. However, in the case of earthquake and cyclone it may be possible to declare a calamity, as a "severe nature or otherwise" within 3 days of the incident.

Further declaring a calamity as a calamity of "severe nature" within 3 days of its occurrence as recommended by the Committee will entail upon the Government of India to depute Central Team immediately, which may not be in the best interest of State Government, as far as providing of additional financial assistance is concerned. For instance, in a recent case of Assam floods the Central Team was deputed immediately after preliminary report of damages submitted by the state. However, the Central Team was unable to move out and assess the damage due to flooding in most of the affected areas a result it could not make a realistic assessment of the damages. The State Government was also unable to provide the damage data of certain sectors to Central Team thus losing out on financial assistance from Government of India in these sectors.

Similarly the impact of natural calamities such as drought, pest attack, frost cannot be determined within 3 days. Therefore, to consider declaring the impact of certain calamity such as earthquake and cyclones as a calamity of severe nature within 3 days and leaving out the other calamities such as floods, landslides, drought, pest attack, cold wave, frost, etc. out of the purview of declaring their impact within the 3 days does not seem to be appropriate.

In view of the foregoing the recommendation of the Committee for fixing a time frame of 3 days for declaring whether a calamity is of "severe nature or not" from the date of occurrence of a calamity needs reconsideration. However, Ministry of Home Affairs would provide information relating to calamity of a "severe nature or not" to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for the purpose of MPLAD Scheme at the earliest after a natural calamity.

(vide Ministry of Home Affairs (Disaster Management Division) OM No. 32-11/2011 – NDM-I dated 30.11.2012)

Observations/Recommendations (Para 5.11)

3.3 The Committee are concerned to note that the Ministry does not release the second installment whenever Utilization and Audit Certificates are not made available to it even in the cases of funds recommended for carrying out works in the areas affected by natural calamities. The Members of Parliament recommend MPLADS funds for other States to carry out rehabilitation works in the districts which are affected by natural calamities on humanitarian grounds and in the national interest. It is the responsibility of the Ministry to take timely steps for expeditious execution of rehabilitation works in the affected districts. The constituency of the Member of Parliament should not be deprived of MPLADS funds even if there is a delay in completion of works in the affected districts and in furnishing utilization and audit certificates. The Committee, therefore, recommend that issue of utilization and audit certificates should not be linked to release of MPLADS funds to the constituencies whose Members of Parliament contributed from their MPLADS funds for rehabilitation in the areas affected by natural calamities in other States.

Reply of the Government

3.4 Paras 2.7 and 2.8 of the revised Guidelines of August 2012 relate to this, and inter-alia stipulate that: "the amount transferred from nodal district to the natural calamity affected district may be shown in the UCs as well as MPRs as amount transferred to natural calamity affected district for rehabilitation work. The works Completion Report, Audit Certificate and Utilization Certificate for such works and funds will be provided by the District Authority of the affected districts directly to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for overall reconciliation. No separate UC/AC/Completion Report in respect of the transferred amount would be required from the Nodal District Authority in this regard while processing release of subsequent installment of MPLADS funds".

(vide Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation OM No. C-53/2012-MPLADS dated 23.05.2013)

Observations/Recommendations (Para 5.16)

3.5 The Committee regret to note that only three works are in progress in the case of Leh cloudburst which occurred on 6 August, 2010. Eventhough about two years have already passed, status of other authorized rehabilitation works is not known to the Ministry. It has requested the Deputy Commissioner, Leh to intimate the status. The Committee in this regard recommend that the Ministry should pursue vigorously with the State Authorities and ensure that all the works are completed within this year. Information in this regard should be furnished to the Committee.

Reply of the Government

3.6 The Deputy Commissioner, Leh has informed vide letter dated 16th November 2012 that 5 works out of the 8 recommended works have been

completed. The progress report furnished by the District Collector of Leh is enclosed at Annexure II.

(vide Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation OM No. C-53/2012-MPLADS dated 23.05.2013)

Observations/Recommendations (Para 5.17)

3.7 The Committee are constrained to note that work proposals are still awaited from the Government of Sikkim even though the earthquake occurred on 18 September, 2011. Both the restoration works and the works aimed at safeguarding people in the event of any earthquake in future should be carried out timely. Such delays defeat the very purpose of providing MPLADS funds to the affected State which are otherwise meant for constituencies in other States. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the matter should be taken up at Chief Secretary level and all efforts should be made by the Ministry to approve and execute the works within this year. Progress made in this regard should be intimated to the Committee.

Reply of the Government

3.8 An amount of Rs.586 lakh (Rs.430 lakh by Rajya Sabha MPs and Rs. 156 lakh by Lok Sabha MPs) had been committed by the Members of Parliament for reconstruction work in earthquake affected areas of Sikkim. The State Government had sent proposals for 10 schools at a total cost of Rs.506.10 lakh. However, subsequently District Collector, East District Sikkim forwarded a revised list of 8 schools with estimated cost of Rs.402.35 lakh since 2 schools mentioned earlier had already been taken up under Prime Minister's Special Package. After getting the approval for these 8 works from Rajya Sabha Committee on MPLADS, the same has been conveyed to the State Government of Sikkim. The State Government has also been requested to furnish proposals for the balance committed amount of Rs.183.65 lakh.

(vide Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation OM No. C-53/2012-MPLADS dated 23.05.2013)

CHAPTER - IV

Observations/recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee which require reiteration.

Observations/Recommendations (Para 5.3)

4.1 The Committee are dissatisfied to note that there is no proposal with the Ministry to increase the annual ceilings of Rs.10 lakh for permissible works outside the constituency but within a State and Rs.50 lakh in the event of a calamity of severe nature in any part of the country. Since the annual allocation of MPLADS funds has been increased to Rs.5 crore, the Committee recommend that provision in para 2.7 of the extant guidelines may be increased to Rs.50 lakh to enable Members of Lok Sabha to recommend MPLADS funds anywhere outside his/ her constituency within the State for rehabilitation works and upto Rs.1 crore in case of "calamity of severe nature" which may occur anywhere in the country.

Reply of the Government

4.2 The Ministry has examined the suggestion for enhancement in ceilings. It has been decided that the current ceilings of Rs. 10 lakh and Rs. 50 lakh per MP are sufficient and appropriate at present.

(vide Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation OM No. C-53/2012-MPLADS dated 23.05.2013)

Observations/Recommendations (Para 5.12)

4.3 The Committee note that the Members of Parliament come forward as a united force and contribute generously from their MPLADS funds for the rehabilitation of areas devastated by the Gujarat earthquake in 2001. Both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Members contributed about Rs. 49 crore for the purpose. HUDCO and NBCC were selected as implementing agencies. Both these agencies had completed the works assigned to them. Out of the unspent balance of funds contributed by Lok Sabha MPs, it was decided to construct 305 Anganwadis. Work on 272 Anganwadis has been completed. In this regard, it is disheartening to note that the work on construction of 25 Anganwadis is yet to start due to land related reasons. Evenafter 11 years, the State Government is unable to find solution to land related problems and this shows the seriousness with which the matter is dealt with by both the Union and State Governments. The Committee recommend in this regard that expeditious steps should be taken by the Ministry and the State Government to find a solution to this problem including finalization of new sites for execution of works within this financial year.

Reply of the Government

4.4 The Government of Gujarat had reported an unspent balance of Rs. 1152.61 lakh as on 31.07.2005. On the proposal of Government of Gujarat, approval was communicated for construction of 305 anganwadis from out of the balance amount. Government of Gujarat vide their letters dated 23.01.2012 and 10.07.2012 forwarded Utilization and Completion Certificates for 239 anganwadis at a cost of Rs. 6,11,34,910/-. Utilization and Completion Certificates in respect of the remaining anganwadis are awaited from the State Government. Further, Government of Gujarat vide their letter dated 11.08.2011 informed that an amount of Rs. 9.42 crore was still available with them from the funds committed for Gujarat earthquake rehabilitation works. The Ministry had been regularly requesting the State Government for sending proposals of projects to be undertaken with the balance unutilized amount of Rs. 9.42 crore. The State Government has recently vide their letter dated 06.04.2013 forwarded a proposal for rehabilitation works in earthquake affected districts of Kutch, Rajkot, Patan and Banaskantha for an amount of Rs. 1557.96 lakh. This proposal is under examination/consideration.

(vide Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation OM No. C-53/2012-MPLADS dated 23.05.2013)

Observations/Recommendations (Para 5.13)

4.5 The Committee take a serious note that the Government of Gujarat has not submitted proposals of the works to be undertaken out of the unspent balance of Rs. 9.42 crore lying with it despite several reminders by the Ministry. The Earthquake occurred in 2001. It is sad that a portion of MPLADS funds consented by MPs with the sole aim of rehabilitation of the areas affected by the Earthquake still remain utilized with the State Government. The Ministry is simply sending reminders to the State Govt. to submit the work proposals and is in a hapless position to initiate any action against the senior officers of the State Government who ignore these reminders. In Committee's view, the Ministry should have taken strict action against those officers responsible for inordinate delay in submission of work proposals. Such inordinate delays defeat the very purpose of MPLADS funds contributed by the Members of Parliament. To remedy the situation the Committee recommend the following:-

- (i) In case any MPLADS funds contributed by MPs for rehabilitation works remain unutilized with the State Governments beyond a period of one year from the date of pooling of the funds, the funds should be transferred back to the respective constituencies of the MPs who had made contribution from their MPLADS funds.
- (ii) In the case of Gujarat, the observations made by this Committee may be sent to the Chief Secretary, Gujarat. A definite time frame may be fixed for utilization of the funds. In case the government is unable to utilize the funds by the stipulated date, the funds may be withdrawn and may be sent back to the nodal Districts of the concerned MPs for utilization elsewhere.

Reply of the Government

4.6 The MPLADS funds are made available to the State Governments/District Authorities for rehabilitation/reconstruction works in calamities, as are permissible under the Guidelines of MPLADS. The implementation of the works is primarily the responsibility of the State Government/District Authority concerned. Once funds are committed from MPLADS, the State Government/District Authority duly takes them into consideration in their overall efforts for rehabilitation and reconstruction. It might not be feasible to subsequently withdraw the earlier committed funds from the State Government/District Authority unless and until the State Government/District Authority itself refunds the same as surplus/excess.

The Committee's observations have been forwarded to the Chief Secretary of Government of Gujarat for appropriate action.

(vide Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation OM No. C-53/2012-MPLADS dated 23.05.2013)

Observations/Recommendations (Para 5.14)

4.7 The Committee are concerned to note that no information was received by the ministry about the progress of rehabilitation works in the areas affected by Kosi floods from the Govt. of Bihar despite issue of several reminders by it. Earlier the process of identification of works was also inordinately delayed by the State Government, which resulted in cost escalation of Disaster-cum-Community-Shelters and Cattle Shelters identified for construction. The State Government had also changed the construction sites earlier approved by the Ministry. Even after the approval of works at new sites at the escalated cost, no information is available whether the works have been carried out or not. This is a serious situation where the State Government is not showing any interest even though the Members of Parliament have contributed their scarce MPLADS funds for the welfare of the people of the affected area. In this regard, the Committee recommend that the Ministry should send a team of officers of the Ministry to inspect the progress of works in the State. In case, the works have already started, they should be asked to complete the works within a definite time frame. In case, the works have not yet been started, the Government of Bihar should be asked to transfer the funds immediately back to the Ministry for distribution to the constituencies of the MPs who had contributed for rehabilitation works.

Reply of the Government

4.8 The State Government of Bihar vide their letter dated 8th February 2013 have informed that only an amount of Rs. 10.62 crore has been received by the three Kosi flood affected districts of Saharsa, Supaul and Madhepura.

The districts of Saharsa and Supaul vide their letters dated 17.08.2012 and Madhepura vide their letter dated 16.08.2012 informed that land for construction of disaster shelters and cattle shelters in many cases has been identified and

further action in this regard is being taken by the district authorities with the available funds.

The State Government/District Authorities concerned have to follow-up the matter of receiving the committed funds from the nodal districts concerned. The Ministry, on its part, also monitors and co-ordinates the same. However, detailed information from Madhepura district in respect of the funds received from the nodal districts of the MPs who have committed funds has not been received. The matter is being followed up with the District Authority of Madhepura. Once information is received from the District Authority of Madhepura, then, after reconciliation, the nodal districts from which funds have not been received would be directed by the Ministry also to send the funds without any further delay.

The Committee's observations have been forwarded to the Chief Secretary of Government of Bihar for appropriate action.

(vide Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation OM No. C-53/2012-MPLADS dated 23.05.2013)

Observations/Recommendations (Para 5.15)

4.9 The Committee are also concerned that even three years after the AILA Cyclone hit the State of West Bengal, 30 works out of 81 works sanctioned for North 24 Parganas district and 56 works out of 73 works sanctioned for South 24 Parganas district are yet to be completed when information in that regard was furnished to the Committee. In this regard, the Committee expect that expeditious steps will be taken by the Ministry to complete the works during the current year. Information in this regard should be furnished to the Committee.

Reply of the Government

4.10 The State Government of West Bengal have informed vide their letter dated 9th August 2011 that 51 works out of 81 in North 24 Parganas district and 17 works out of 73 works in South 24 Parganas district have been completed.

The Committee's observations have been forwarded to the Chief Secretary of Government of West Bengal for appropriate action.

(vide Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation OM No. C-53/2012-MPLADS dated 23.05.2013)

CHAPTER - V

Observations/recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited.

Observations/Recommendations (Para 5.5)

5.1 The Committee feel that every effort should be made by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation to carry out rehabilitation works out of the MPLADS funds consented by the Members as early as possible so that the relief reaches the affected people in time. Every step in the process of providing relief to the affected people should be simple and less time consuming. In this regard, the Committee note from the Minister's appeal to Members of Parliament that they are requested to fill a consent letter which is addressed to the Chairman of the respective MPLADS Committee of Parliament. The consent letters received from the Members are forwarded by the Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha Secretariats to the Ministry for necessary action at its end. The Committee could not understand the logic of addressing consent letters to the Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee. This is a Government Scheme and all the actions for carrying out rehabilitation works on the amounts consented by the Members of Parliament have to be taken by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. As such, addressing letter of consent to the Chairmen of the Parliamentary Committees is a step leading to delay in execution of rehabilitation works. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the consent letters should be directly addressed to either the Minister or the Secretary of the Ministry so as to save the precious time lost in forwarding the consent letters to the Ministry by the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariats.

Reply of the Government

5.2 The recommendation is appropriate. However, Rajya Sabha Committee on MPLADS has been requested to give its views on the suggestion. A decision will be taken by this Ministry on receipt of their views.

(vide Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation OM No. C-53/2012-MPLADS dated 23.05.2013)

Observations/Recommendations (Para 5.6)

5.3 The Committee are aggrieved to note that the procedure followed by the Ministry to carry out rehabilitation works results in precious time loss in reaching out relief to the people affected by a natural calamity. It is a Central Sector Scheme being administered by the Ministry. As a wing of the Executive, it is the responsibility of the Ministry to execute the rehabilitation works expeditiously. The Members of Parliament give their consent for diversion of the MPLADS fund from their respective constituency/State keeping in view the woes of the people living in the areas ravaged by a natural calamity. Being the apex level executing agency, the Ministry should identify and execute the rehabilitation works on a war footing basis. In this regard, the Committee lament to note that the Ministry deals with matters pertaining to utilization of MPLADS for natural calamities in a routine and casual manner. No urgency is shown by the Ministry for timely execution of

the rehabilitation works. Considerable time is lost during the process of identification and approval of rehabilitation works. On receipt of proposals from the State Governments, the Ministry places them before the Committees of Parliament for their approval. The Ministry need not refer the proposals to the Parliament Committees as precious time is lost in the process. Moreover, sitting in Delhi, the Committee may not be able to judge the actual requirements of the affected people. The main function of the Committee is to monitor and review periodically the performance and problems in implementation of the MPLAD Scheme. Instead of furnishing any information to the Parliament Committees on progress of rehabilitation works so as to enable them review the progress made in utilization of funds consented by MPs, the Ministry choose to refer the work proposals to the Committee. Thereafter, the Ministry remains silent about the physical and financial progress of the works. Since the scrutiny of work proposals is purely an executive function, the Committee recommend that the Ministry being the nodal executing agency, should examine the proposals submitted by the State Government and accord approval within two weeks. If required, the Ministry may send a team of officers for on-the-spot assessment of the rehabilitation proposals *viz-a-viz* the actual requirements of the people. However, in the cases of all the natural calamities of severe nature, the Ministry should submit periodic progress reports of the rehabilitation works for the *suo-moto* cognition of the Committee. Periodic Progress Reports should also be furnished to the MPs who had contributed from their MPLADS funds.

Reply of the Government

5.4 The recommendation regarding not referring proposals received from State Governments to the Committees is appropriate. However, Rajya Sabha Committee on MPLADS has been requested for their views. A decision will be taken by this Ministry on receipt of their views.

Except for special/specific circumstances, on-the-spot assessment of the rehabilitation proposals vis-à-vis the actual requirements of the people by a team of Ministry officials is not feasible. The officials of the Ministry are not technically equipped. They would not be aware of the ground realities about the actual requirements. It is more appropriate to obtain inputs from the State Governments/District Authorities (as is normally done).

The periodic progress reports from State Governments on rehabilitation/reconstruction works taken up with MPLADS funds will be sent to the Parliamentary Committees as well as to the Hon'ble MPs who had contributed for the purpose from their MPLADS funds.

(vide Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation OM No. C-53/2012-MPLADS dated 23.05.2013)

New Delhi
14 August, 2013
23 Shrawana, 1935 (Saka)

A.K.S. VIJAYAN
Chairman,
Committee on Members of Parliament
Local Area Development Scheme
(Lok Sabha)

COMMITTEE ON MPLAD SCHEME, LOK SABHA (2012-13)

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME, LOK SABHA (2012-13) HELD ON TUESDAY, 13 AUGUST, 2013.

The Committee sat on Tuesday, 13 August, 2013 from 1500 hours to 1615 hours in Committee Room 'C', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri A. K. S. Vijayan - Chairman

MEMBERS

2. Shri Raj Babbar
3. Shri Pulin Bihari Baske
4. Shri Basori Singh Masram
5. Shri Rudramadhab Ray
6. Prof. Saugata Roy
7. Shri S. D. Shariq
8. Shri Balkrishna Khanderao Shukla
9. Shri Chaudhary Lal Singh

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri D. R. Shekhar - Director
2. Shri C. Kalayanasundaram - Deputy Secretary

WITNESSES

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------|---|--|
| 1. | Shri T. C. A. Anant | - | Secretary (S&PI) |
| 2. | Shri Dinesh Singh | - | Additional Secretary, S&PI |
| 3. | Shri P. K. Pujari | - | Addl. Secretary
& Financial Adviser |
| 4. | Dr. Davendra Verma | - | Deputy Director General(PI) |
| 5. | Shri Kundan Singh | - | Director (IFD) |
| 6. | Shri D. Saibaba | - | Director (MPLADS) |

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. | Shri R. S. Shukla | - | Joint Secretary & Legal Adviser |
| 2. | Smt. Poonam Suri | - | Deputy Legal Adviser |

2. At the outset, the Hon'ble Chairman welcomed the Members of the Committee and the representatives of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and the Ministry of Law and Justice to the sitting of the Committee.

3-6 XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX

7. Thereafter, the Committee then took up for consideration the draft Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in the Ninth Report (15th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on the subject 'Procedures for provision of MPLADS funds for Natural Calamities' and Committee adopted the report unanimously without any amendments.

8. A copy of the verbatim proceedings of the sitting has been kept for the record.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX II
(vide para 4 of the Introduction)

**ANALYSIS OF THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE
RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE NINTH REPORT OF THE
COMMITTEE ON MPLADS (15TH LOK SABHA)**

I.	Total number of recommendations :	17
II.	Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government :	06 (35.30%)
	Para Nos : 5.1, 5.4, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9 and 5.10	
III.	Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply :	04 (23.52%)
	Para Nos: 5.2, 5.11, 5.16 and 5.17	
IV.	Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration :	05 (29.41%)
	Para Nos : 5.3, 5.12, 5.13, 5.14 and 5.15	
V.	Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited :	02 (11.77%)
	Para Nos : 5.5 and 5.6	