

**COMMITTEE ON MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT LOCAL
AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (2009-10)**

FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA

**MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND
PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION**

**Awareness in the Implementing Agencies about the
importance of the MPLAD Scheme through training
programmes, seminars, symposia, workshops etc.**

SECOND REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

August, 2010/ Shravana, 1932 (Saka)

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Presented to Lok Sabha on 6 August 2010



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**COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT LOCAL
AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (LOK SABHA) 2009-10**

Shri A.K.S. Vijayan - Chairman

Members

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3. Dr. Baliram
4. Dr. Pulin Bihari Baske
5. Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar
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SECRETARIAT

1. Shri N.K. Sapra - Additional Secretary
2. Shri S. Bal Shekar - Additional Secretary
3. Shri Hardev Singh - Director
4. Shri C. Kalyanasundaram - Under Secretary

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Committee on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Second Report on the subject "Awareness in the Implementing Agencies about the importance of the MPLAD Scheme through Training, Seminars, Symposia, Workshop, etc." pertaining to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

2. The Committee on MPLADS (2008-09) had selected this subject for detailed examination. The examination of the subject, however, remained inconclusive. The Committee on MPLADS (2009-10), therefore, selected this subject again for examination keeping in view the importance of the subject.

3. The Committee took the oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on the subject on 27 January 2010. Draft Report on the subject was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 16 June 2010.

4. The Committee would like to thank the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for placing before them the background notes on the subject and the replies to lists of points prepared by the Secretariat on the subject.

5. For facility of reference, the observations/recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters at the end of the Report.

New Delhi

05 August, 2010
14 Shrawana, 1930 (Saka)

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

REPORT

Background

1.1 The Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) is a Centrally-sponsored Plan scheme fully funded by the Government of India. The Scheme was launched in the year 1993. The objective of the Scheme is to enable Members of Parliament to recommend works of developmental nature with emphasis on the creation of durable community assets based on the locally felt needs to be taken up in their constituencies. The annual entitlement per MP/Constituency is Rs. 2 crore at present. Right from the inception of the Scheme, durable assets of national priorities viz. drinking water, primary education, public health, sanitation, roads, etc. are being created.

1.2 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, as the nodal Ministry, is responsible for policy formulation, release of funds and monitoring the implementation of the Scheme. A Department in each State/Union Territory is designated as the Nodal Department with the overall responsibility of supervision and monitoring of the implementation of MPLAD Scheme. Nodal departments have also been assigned the role of coordination work regarding implementation of the Scheme with the districts and other line Departments. The District Authority gets the MPLAD Scheme implemented through Local Self Governments such as Panchayat Raj Institutions, Municipal Corporations and Municipalities or through the Government agencies such as Public Health Engineering, Rural Housing, Housing Boards, Electricity Boards, Urban Development Authorities, etc. In some cases, the District Authority engages reputed Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) for execution of MPLADS works.

1.3 The Scheme is governed by a set of guidelines issued by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The implementing agencies at various stages have to scrupulously adhere to the guidelines pertaining to implementation, fund release and management, accounting procedure, etc. Timely sanction of the projects recommended by the Members of Parliament and their effective implementation are essential for the success of the Scheme. The officers of the State Government at various levels in the channel of implementation and the personnel of the implementing agencies have to be fully conversant with the guidelines governing the Scheme, the work procedures, etc. to achieve the goals of the Scheme. Since the Scheme primarily aims at fulfilling the expectations of the people with regard to basic necessities such as drinking water, road, sanitation, etc., it is imperative that awareness is created among

the implementing agencies about the importance of the scheme through training programmes, seminars, symposia, workshops, etc. on a continuous basis. The Committee on MPLADS had, therefore, selected the subject "Awareness in the implementing agencies about the importance of the MPLAD Scheme through training programmes, seminars, symposia, workshops, etc." for examination on priority basis.

CHAPTER – I
Awareness through Training Programmes

A. Training Programmes

2.1 As a part of its role in monitoring the implementation of the Scheme, para 6.2(v) of the Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme states that the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation shall provide training materials for conducting training of district officers, on MPLADS as and when these are organized by the State Governments. In regard to the role of the State/UT Government, para 6.3(v) of the guidelines states that the State/UT Government may make arrangements for training of districts officers concerned with the implementation of the MPLAD Scheme.

2.2 While explaining the origin of the above guidelines and the role being played by the Ministry in pursuance thereof, the representative of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation had stated during oral evidence as follows:-

“Sir, before the current guidelines came into existence, that is, in 2005, the earlier guidelines did not have any provision for training as such. We thought that to improve the implementation of this Scheme as well as to make the implementing agencies, the district officials and all those who are concerned with the implementation of this Scheme widely aware, we must put in a provision for training. Therefore, this item was introduced in the guidelines which provides for such training.... It is a demand-based scheme in the sense (the provision is in the guidelines) and we encourage all the States to come forward and hold the training sessions at the State level headquarters where district officials and implementing agencies are called. We provide resource persons from our Office. One of our team goes there regularly and we also give them a power point presentation. The resource kit consists of the guidelines, one resource officer, frequently answered questions, circulars and a presentation. The resource officer explains any doubts thereon.”

2.3 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation further informed the Committee in a written reply that the training programme mainly deals with the presentation of MPLADS guidelines and clarifying the points raised by the participants. Deputy Director General/Director/Deputy Secretary/Joint Director/Under Secretary of the Ministry attend the training programme as Resource Persons.

2.4 As per the information provided by the representative of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation during oral evidence, the following table shows the number of training programmes conducted during the last five years:-

Year	No. of States which conducted Training Programmes
2005-06	3
2006-07	12
2007-08	7
2008-09	7
2009-10	5

The above table shows that the training programmes were never organized in all the States in a year. In reply to a question on the number and level of participants in each training programme, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation informed the Committee that about 30 to 60 officials from District, Block, and Panchayat levels attend the training programmes, besides officials of the nodal Department of the State.

2.5 When it was asked whether any training is imparted to the officials/personnel of various Implementing Agencies, the Ministry in a written reply stated that the MPLAD Scheme guidelines provide for training of district officials which also includes personnel of Implementing Agencies. It is for the State/UT Governments which nominate the persons for the training programmes, be they officials from the office of the district authority, officials from State/UT nodal departments, officials from Government implementing agencies such as Municipal Corporations, Block Development Officers, officials from PWD, Rural Health Engineering, etc. The record of participants is not kept by the Ministry.

In this regard, during evidence, the Committee enquired as to why the Ministry does not maintain the record of training of the officials/personnel of various implementing agencies. The representative of the Ministry assured the Committee that they (Ministry) will collect it from the State Governments as they did not have it at that moment.

2.6 As and when the proposals are received from the State Governments, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation scrutinize the same and grants financial assistance to them. In regard to the budgetary provisions for training, the representative of the Ministry informed the Committee during evidence as under:-

“We have a modest provision for training. It is Rs. 20 lakh per year. I say it is ‘modest’ because the States have been demanding provisions for a large number of things. They demand even hotel expenses, food bills, TA/DA of the officials.

We restrict our expenditure on training on items like stationery, providing of kit bag and light refreshment which includes light lunch. We release, as I mentioned, funds on the basis of demands from the States. There is a wide variation in the demand which the States have been asking. Some States have asked Rs. 24,000 for a training programme, and some States have asked Rs. 3.23 lakh for a training programme. As I mentioned, we do not allow TA/DA and the hotel stay expenses”.

2.7 During evidence, the Committee observed that the budgetary allocation for training is very less and that it should be increased. In this regard, the representative of the Ministry stated that they have noted the concern of the Committee that the funds are inadequate.

2.8 In regard to the financial assistance provided to the States for imparting training to the district officials, the following information was furnished by the Ministry in a written reply to a question raised by the Committee in this regard:-

S.No.	State from which proposal for training programme received	Financial assistance sanctioned for the Training (Rs. In lakh)	Date of Sanction	Number of training courses conducted and year
1	Andhra Pradesh	2.00	13.03.06	1 2006-07
2	Chattisgarh	1.60	.3.06	1 2006-07
3	Uttar Pradesh	1.20	24.03.06	1 2006-07
4	Maharashtra	3.23	28.04.06	1 2006-07
5	Rajasthan	0.77 0.57840	25.07.06 22.08.08	1 2007-08
6	Haryana	2.00	25.09.06	1 2007-08
7	Mizoram	0.2128	29.03.07	1 2007-08
8	Tamil Nadu	2.00	05.02.07	1 2006-07
9	Gujarat	0.81	28.02.07	1 2008-09
10	Assam	2.00	29.03.07	1 2008-09
11	Punjab	0.3184	29.03.07	1 2007-08
12	Kerala	0.815	29.03.07	1 2007-08
13	West Bengal	0.3552 0.37046	19.07.07 25.06.08	1 2007-08 1 2008-09
14	Meghalaya	0.28	5.12.07	1 2008-09
15	Tripura	0.39878	05.12.07	1 2008-09
16	Jharkhand	1.74500	05.12.07	1 2008-09
17	Sikkim	0.61	21.01.08	1 2008-09

		0.44000	17.03.09	
18	Orissa	1.60	26.03.08	No
19	Madhya Pradesh	0.65675	17.03.08	No
20	Uttarakhand	0.50000	09.05.08	No
21	Karnataka	0.75000	04.06.08	1 2008-09
22	Arunachal Pradesh	0.86500	04.06.08	1 2008-09
23	Lakshadweep	0.41000	04.06.08	1 2008-09

Wide variations could be noticed from the above table, in the amount sanctioned for training in various States. Moreover, only one training course was conducted by the States, except West Bengal, during the period from 2006-09. Three States, viz. Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand had not conducted any training course even though they received financial assistance from the Centre. The Ministry informed the Committee in written reply to a question raised in this regard that these three States had organized training programmes in August/September 2009 in which the representatives of the Ministry had also imparted training.

2.9 In regard to the frequency of training programmes, the representative of the Ministry further stated during evidence as under:-

“We find that certain States are proactive. For example, West Bengal had three training programmes; UP is going to have the second training programme; Sikkim is going to have the second training programme. On the other hand, there are nine States which have not even had one training programme. So, we are encouraging those States. The proposals of two States – Bihar and Jammu & Kashmir – are under our active consideration. They have sent their proposals which we are examining, and we have referred it back to them because they have asked a little too much of funds or the number of officials is little un-wieldy. Otherwise, their proposals are under the active consideration, and their proposals will be approved soon. As regards the other seven States, we have not got any proposal from them. We are pursuing with them. Sir, sometimes we find that the nodal authorities are reluctant to call district officials for training – that could be the reason – due to other pressing demands, for example, they may have elections or Assembly Session or some other local problems. There are various reasons and because of them they do not approach us... so we find that having a training programme, may be twice a year or once a year by every State Government, may not be feasible. There are several reasons. One, of course, is lack of demand from the States themselves. Secondly, we are supposed to provide – and we do provide – a resource person. But we have limited people in the Ministry to act as resource persons. About the training, we feel that once in three years covering every State, may be sufficient. It is because we also separately issue circulars in which we frequently give questions and answers. We have been clarifying the doubts of all the States. So, that way,

about holding meetings once in three years is what the Ministry, at present, feels. But we will be guided by the Committee. There are limitations of resource persons; there are limitations of funds; and there is a lack of adequate demand from the States. But we will be guided entirely by the Committee. In the guidelines, it does not mention, as to the frequency of training. Of course, if need picks up, we will certainly have more training programmes. We have no problem from the Ministry side. I am personally also willing to go and give training.”

In this regard, the Ministry further stated in a written reply that it is proposing to ask the States to conduct training programme at least once in 3 years. The States which had completed training in 2006-07 are being asked by the Ministry to conduct training in 2010-11. The Ministry first intends to complete the training courses in 9 States/UTs where training has not been conducted so far, in addition to the training in 5 States where training programmes were already conducted in the year 2006-07.

2.10 During evidence, the Committee observed that it will not be sufficient to impart training once in three years. Training should at least be imparted twice in a full term of 5 years. It should be made mandatory to take training once in two years for those States which have not made any demand for the training programme. It was also further observed during the course of the discussion that it should be made mandatory for the officials of the State Governments to undergo training before taking up any assignment with regard to the implementation of the MPLAD Scheme. In this regard, the representative of the Ministry clarified as follows:-

“Hon’ble Chairman had raised the point whether training could be made mandatory. This scheme is actually implemented by the State Governments. We are only providing the funds in the nature of 100 per cent grant-in-aid. We will examine whether the training provision that is there in the guidelines can be made mandatory. But the word ‘mandatory’ has got a lot of different meanings. ‘Mandatory’ would mean that you incorporate it in a particular Act. Otherwise, how will you enforce it? This issue is a little complex. We will examine this issue. The other point was that training should be held once in two years instead of three years as we proposed. This is a very useful suggestion. We will certainly build on this.”

B. Specialised Agency for imparting training to officials

2.11 According to the Ministry, it is not feasible to ask the States or UTs to conduct training at least once in a year as the Ministry may not be in a position to provide the resources as well as resource personnel every year for all the States/UTs. When the Committee enquired during evidence, whether the Ministry proposes to consider setting up a specialized agency for training of the State officials or handing over the same to any existing Government agency, the representative of the Ministry stated as under:-

“About specialised agency, we have stated that we are not able to have resource persons for once in a year training. Every State has got specialized agencies. There are different names for them in different States. It is normally called Institution of Management and Public Administration. It is equivalent of LBS Academy at the State level and it is owned by the State. So, every State is supposed to do the training of all the Centrally-sponsored schemes and the State schemes through the State Training Institutes and also train their probationers and the state officers in every scheme. So, it is not that they do not have a specialized training institute. We help them through additional small amount of funds, but we have noted the Committee’s concern that the funds are inadequate. But the fact is that they have a specialized training institute and they have professors...Each one is in charge of certain specialties. Somebody is supposed to be an expert in power and somebody else in HRD etc. and they are supposed to conduct training. Certainly, we will take up this issue and consider, but the fact is that there are specialized agencies available”.

C. Training Manual on MPLAD Scheme

2.12 During evidence, the representative of the Ministry informed the Committee about training manual as follows :-

“I have also thought of having a training manual. We will do it after the guidelines are revised. At this moment, if we are going to revise the guidelines, there is no purpose in having a training manual. The training manual incorporates the provisions of the guidelines plus all the circulars that we have been issuing to clarify the frequently asked questions plus whatever people have been raising at the review meetings. That is in the realm of the future.”

D. Training at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie

2.13 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation had earlier agreed to a proposal of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions that a special capsule shall be added in the training programme of the district officials particularly for the IAS officers. When asked about the steps taken by the Ministry towards this objective, the Ministry in a written reply stated that it had suggested to the Director, LBS National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie in August 2008 that two sessions of 2 hours each on the guidelines on MPLADS, sharing experiences with regard to implementation of the Scheme at the district level and the issues raised at various meetings may be included in the training curriculum at the Academy. Subsequently, the Academy had requested for material on MPLADS for inclusion in the background document for use during training. During last year (2009), the Academy proposed to depute an officer to interact with the officers under training in the Academy. As the invitation was at a very short notice, the Ministry could not depute any officer to the Academy. As regards inclusion of topics of MPLADS in the curriculum, the Academy

has been requested by the Ministry recently to intimate the present position to the Ministry. In this regard, the representative of the Ministry had further informed the Committee as under:-

“The next issue is why LBS Academy is taking time. We have been in correspondence and we have even offered a resource person. We also gave literature to them. We are in active correspondence with them. We have reminded the LBS Academy in the matter. I will speak to the Director, LBS Academy today itself.”

CHAPTER – II
Awareness through Seminars, Symposia, Workshops, etc.

A. Seminars/Symposia/Workshops on MPLAD Scheme

3.1 When asked whether any seminars/symposia/workshops were organized for the District Level Officers on the MPLAD Scheme at Union and State levels, the Ministry in a written reply stated that no seminar has been conducted at the Union level. However, it was claimed that the review meetings are conducted as well as training programmes are imparted at the State/UT level to bring more focus and greater penetration. Moreover, since 2005-06, the all India review meetings are organised by the Ministry twice in a year with the nodal Secretaries of the States/UTs level to iron out the problems in the implementation, bring greater clarity with regard to policy as well as implementation aspects among the States/UTs. In the Ministry's opinion, these review meetings also act as a platform for sharing the operational experience across the country.

3.2 The Committee observed during evidence that the Ministry had not organized any seminar, symposium or workshop during the last three years and asked for the reasons for the same. The representative of the Ministry replied as follows:-

“About symposia, I would submit that our review meetings, which take place twice a year, are in the nature of a symposia in the sense that we go through the physical financial reviews in details and also point out their defects in the four documents which they are supposed to send – MPR, AC, UCs, etc. then, we also clarify the doubts. So it is in the nature of all India symposia or workshop. We call it a review meeting.”

3.3 Thereupon, the Committee observed that symposium and review meeting are two different events. Officially the Ministry can review the implementation of the Scheme but in a symposium which is informal in nature, they can discuss all the issues relating to the implementation of the Scheme. In this regard, the representative of the Ministry assured the Committee, “we will take the suggestion on board and we will consider it. We will examine the demand to broadband it to official-cum-MPs meeting. We will note down this and we will consider this issue”.

B. Review Meetings

3.4 During evidence, the representative of the Ministry claimed that review meetings they hold with State nodal officers and the feedback they receive through the NABCONS's Reviews of the MPLAD Scheme are serving the purpose of additional training needs. In regard to the usefulness of review meetings in creating awareness among the State officers, the Ministry in written reply to a question stated that in the

review meetings, in addition to the review of performance of the States/UTs, the points raised by the State/District officials on various aspects are discussed and the doubts on the MPLADS Guidelines are clarified. The issues relating to provisions that are already present in the Guidelines, such as discretion of selecting the implementing agency lying with the District Authorities, furnishing of cumulative MPRs for 10-14th Lok Sabha MPs, the requirement of allocating funds to SC/ST areas as per Para 2.5 of the Guidelines, etc. are reiterated by the Ministry during these review meetings. Taking a cue from the discussions/feedback from the review meetings, several circulars clarifying the issues such as on implementing agencies, furnishing of MPRs, completion of eligible works of 14th Lok Sabha MPs, clarifications of reporting of information through online MPR system, etc. have also been issued by the Ministry. With regard to certain other suggestions which are not part of the Guidelines, they are noted by the Ministry for consideration at the time of revision of the Guidelines.

3.5 In this regard, the representative of the Ministry further stated during evidence as under:-

“We also have a regular review meeting at the Union level with State nodal officers. It is a physical and financial review where we review the utilization status of the particular State, utilization certificates, audit certificates, MPR and others. It is very useful. In addition, we also take this opportunity to answer their doubts. So, in a way it also acts as a training programme.”

C. Review of the Scheme by NABCONS

3.6 In regard to the usefulness of the review by NABCONS review as a training instrument, the Additional Secretary in the Ministry informed the Committee during evidence as follows:-

“In addition, we also get a feedback from an agency called ‘NABCONS’, that is, NABARD Consultancy Services which we have hired out of the professional services account. We have been conducting the physical reviews through NABCONS on the spot. In the first phase, we did 30 districts; in the second phase we did 43 districts; in the third phase 60 districts are on-going; and in the fourth phase we have to do 75 districts. We have a MoU with NABCONS. Why I am mentioning about NABCONS is that they not only give us a very useful feedback as to what is happening in the State but also they raise issues if necessary where the guidelines may not have been obeyed or were not very clear to the state. They raise issues which we can clarify to the State Government that this is where they are going wrong, which helps the implementation of this Scheme in future. So, in a way, it acts like training. It serves the purpose of additional training.”

D. Translation of MPLADS guidelines into regional languages

3.7 When asked whether the MPLADS guidelines are translated into the regional languages and distributed to the district authorities and Implementing Agencies so that the officials can easily understand and properly implement the guidelines, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in a written reply stated that the MPLADS guidelines are brought out in English as well as Hindi. It has been noticed that in some States, the correspondence with regard to the ground level implementation of the scheme is done in the regional language. The State/UT Governments are free to translate the Guidelines in respective regional languages. The Committee observed during the evidence that the Ministry should play a proactive role in this regard and asked the representative as to what steps are proposed to be taken by the Ministry. The representative of the Ministry replied as below:-

“Regarding regional languages, there is a provision of contingency expenditure of 0.5 per cent. We have no objection if they utilize a portion of that for translation purposes, although up to now we have restricted its use to computer software and hardware and small amount of stationeries. But this could be accommodated under the guidance of this Committee, we will issue the direction that regional language translation can be done.”

Observations/Recommendations

4.1 The Committee find that the provisions contained in the guidelines of the MPLAD Scheme with regard to training of the State officials are inadequate to create proper awareness among the officials engaged in the implementation of the Scheme. The guidelines merely state that the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation shall provide training materials for conducting training of district officers on MPLAD Scheme as and when these are organized by the State Governments. It seems that this guideline has been framed by the Ministry to conveniently avoid its responsibility of conducting training programmes by shifting the same to the States. This is a Central sector scheme fully funded by the Government of India and, as such, it should be the primary concern of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation to create requisite awareness among the officials of the State Governments who are only the implementing authorities. As per the present provisions relating to training, the State Governments have to moot proposals for training and the Ministry provides financial assistance, training materials and the resource persons for the same. It is a demand based provision. As demands are not forthcoming from the States, the number of training programmes conducted so far are dismally low. The Committee are of the strong view that the Ministry should play a proactive role in the matter and should not wait for the proposals to come from the States. They, therefore, recommend that the guidelines on the role of the Ministry in imparting training to the officials of the State Governments should be reframed as follows:-

“The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation shall organize training programmes for the officials of State Governments/Union Territories in coordination with the respective State/UT Governments and

provide financial assistance, training materials and Resource Persons for conducting training programmes for State/UT officials.”

4.2 The Committee are deeply concerned to note that most of the States had conducted only one training programme since 2006 with the exception of West Bengal which has conducted three training programmes. As many as nine States have not so far organized even a single training programme. In such a scenario the Committee are not convinced that it would be sufficient to conduct training once in three years in a State. It is also surprising that the Ministry have not maintained any record on the number of officials imparted training so far. The only information the Ministry could provide in this regard that the approximate number of trainees in a training programme ranged between 30 and 60 is vague. The Committee feel that both the number of training programmes organised and the number of officials trained, so far, were very less considering the fact that the Scheme is being implemented in all the Lok Sabha constituencies of the country since 1993. A number of officials right from the nodal department to the implementing agencies, are involved in the implementation of the Scheme. All the officials in the channel of implementation of the Scheme should be fully conversant with the guidelines governing the Scheme and the implementing procedures. Moreover, frequent transfer of the officers engaged in the process of implementation and the absence of any kind of training to the newly posted officers are such factors that the officials are not able to appreciate the importance of the scheme. Several cases of misinterpretation/violation of guidelines by the officials had come to the notice of the Committee. To obviate recurrence of such violations and to ensure successful implementation of the Scheme, it is imperative that all officials dealing with the Scheme are made fully conversant with all aspects of the Scheme and the correct interpretation of the

guidelines. The Committee feel that it would be ideal to conduct training programmes once every year in which all the important officials of the nodal department, district administration and implementing agencies are imparted training before they take up or immediately after taking up any assignment in the channel of implementation of the Scheme. However, till a proper infrastructure is created in this regard, the Committee strongly recommend that the Ministry should take immediate steps to organize, in coordination with the State Governments concerned, training programmes at least once in two years in each State. The Committee also recommend that creation of necessary infrastructure should not linger on for years but must be done within a period of 3-4 years. Action taken in this regard should be intimated to the Committee.

4.3 The Committee also recommend that the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation should maintain a data base of officials engaged in the implementation of the Scheme and the status of training imparted to them. The action taken in this regard should be intimated to the Committee within three months.

4.4 The Committee note that the Ministry makes a budgetary allocation of only Rs. 20 lakh a year for meeting the expenses relating to the training of the State officials. When the proposal for training is received from the States, the Ministry scrutinizes the same and provides financial assistance for organising the same. Even though the State Governments demand for reimbursement of the hotel expenses, TA/DA and other expenses incurred by them for training of the officials engaged in the implementation of the Scheme, the Ministry restricts the expenditure on training only to stationery, training kits and light refreshment/lunch. They also provide a resource person from the Ministry. Meeting only a part of the expenses may also be one of the major reasons for

poor response of the States in organizing training programmes. The Committee are of the firm view that the Union Government should bear all the expenses for organizing such training programmes. This would encourage the resource-starved States to depute their officers for training. They, therefore, recommend that budgetary allocation for training should be increased and the total amount of financial assistance should include reimbursement of hotel expenses, TA/DA, etc. of the trainees in addition to the assistance being provided presently .

4.5 The Committee also find huge variations in sanctioning financial assistance to the States for conducting training programmes. Maharashtra was sanctioned Rs. 3.23 lakh in 2006 whereas Meghalaya was sanctioned Rs. 28,000/- only in 2007. The Committee recommend in this regard that parameters being adopted by the Ministry to sanction financial assistance to the States should be standardized so as to provide adequate amount of financial assistance to all the States to meet the expenses on training of officials.

4.6 The Committee note that the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is not in a position to provide resource personnel every year for all the States/UTs. In Committee's view, the dependence of the conduct of training programme on the availability of the officials from the Ministry may also be a reason for the negligibly few training programmes conducted so far. Moreover, such diversion of the manpower of the Ministry as resource persons to impart training to the district officials could affect the functions of the Ministry with regard to the implementation of the Scheme. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the training of State officials may be handed over to the respective Institute of Management and Public Administration of each State which has expertise in the field of training. For this purpose, some faculty members of the State Institutes should be imparted training in the first instance

by the Ministry in all the States. This would also facilitate training of State officials in regional languages. The schedule for annual training programmes may be chalked out by the Ministry in consultation with the nodal Departments and the respective Institutes of the States keeping in view the local requirements in a particular State. Financial assistance may be given to the Institutes directly by the Ministry for conducting the training programmes.

4.7 The Committee note that there is a proposal to prepare a training manual by incorporating the provisions of the guidelines, circulars, etc. The Committee hope that this manual would be prepared in a time bound manner and handed over to the nodal Departments and the State Institutes of Public Administration for their use during the training of State officials. Steps should also be taken to provide training manuals in regional languages, in order that the Scheme is implemented in the right spirit.

4.8 The Committee are concerned to note that the proposal to add a special capsule on MPLAD Scheme in the training imparted to IAS probationers at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie is still at correspondence stage between the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and the LBSNAA since 2008. The Committee take a serious view of the delay in this regard. The MPLAD Scheme is being implemented by the District Authorities. As such, it is imperative that a comprehensive training is imparted to IAS probationers during their training at the LBS Academy. The proposal of the Ministry to include two sessions each on MPLAD Scheme may not be adequate considering the pivotal role being played by the district authorities in the implementation of the Scheme. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation should prepare a comprehensive curriculum in consultation with LBS Academy. The

Faculty members of the Academy may be apprised of the Scheme who in turn may impart training to IAS probationers. This would reduce the dependence of the Academy on the resource persons of the Ministry who are busy in the implementation of the Scheme. The Committee hope that the capsule on MPLAD Scheme would be included in the training programme of the current batch of IAS probationers. The Committee may be apprised of the progress made in this regard.

4.9 The Committee regret to note that the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has not conducted any seminars/symposia/workshops on MPLAD Scheme so far. The contention of the Ministry that the review meetings conducted by it twice a year are in the nature of symposia or workshop is not acceptable to the Committee. The Ministry can officially review the implementation of the Scheme as part of its monitoring role. Seminars, symposia and workshops are the broader instruments which involve wide range of discussions among the participants. All the issues relating to the implementation of the Scheme can be discussed at such events which in turn would create requisite awareness among the implementing agencies about the importance of the MPLAD Scheme. During evidence, the representatives of the Ministry assured the Committee that they will examine the demand to broadbase the review meetings being held by them as official-cum-MPs meetings. In this regard, the Committee recommend that the Ministry should organize region-wise seminars/symposia/workshops exclusively for creating awareness among the implementing agencies. In these seminars/symposia/workshops, Members of Parliament should also be invited in order to pave the way for a holistic discussion on the subject. Action taken in this regard should be communicated to the Committee within three months.

4.10 The Committee expect the Ministry to use internet and other communication media for creating awareness among the implementing agencies. Tele conferences, e-workshops, etc. could be organized by the Ministry for tripartite discussions among the officials of the Ministry, Members of Parliament and the officials of the States who are not in a position to come to Delhi for participating in the seminars, symposia, etc. organized by the Ministry due to variety of factors.

4.11 The Committee note that the findings of the review conducted by NABCONS on the MPLAD Scheme in various States provided useful feedback on issues relating to the implementation of the Scheme. Violation of guidelines, wrong interpretation of guidelines, etc. lead to ineffective implementation of the Scheme. The Committee in this regard recommend that the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation should examine the findings of NABCONS and issue necessary directions to all the States for strict compliance by the implementing authorities of the Scheme.

4.12 The Committee regret to note that the Ministry has taken no steps for translation of MPLAD Scheme guidelines into regional languages. Instead of taking any proactive steps in this regard, the Ministry has merely stated that the State/UT Governments were free to translate the guidelines in the respective regional languages. Translation of guidelines in the regional languages is imperative as many State Governments conduct their work in their respective regional languages. The Ministry has itself conceded that in some States, the correspondence with regard to the ground level implementation of the Scheme is done only in the concerned regional language. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should make arrangements for translation of the MPLADS guidelines into various regional languages in consultation with the

nodal Departments of the States. Translated version of the guidelines should be distributed to the district authorities and the implementing agencies. The Ministry may not shy away in extending the much-needed financial assistance to the States in this regard.

New Delhi

**05 August, 2010
14 Shravana, 1932 (Saka)**

**A.K.S. Vijayan
Chairman
Committee on Member of Parliament
Local Area Development Scheme
Lok Sabha**

Committee chose Shri Shripad Yesso Naik, member of the Committee to act as Chairman for the meeting under Rule 258 (3) of the Rules of Procedure & Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

3. The acting Chairman welcomed the Members of the Committee and officials of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The Committee then took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry on the subject, "Awareness in the Implementing Agencies about importance of the MPLAD Scheme through Training Programmes, Seminars, Symposia, Workshops, etc."

4. The representative of the Ministry (Shri Pankaj Jain, Additional Secretary) briefed the Committee on the subject. In particular, he informed the Committee that a provision for training of officials was incorporated in the MPLAD Scheme Guidelines in November 2005 when the guidelines were revised. Since then the training programmes are being held at the State headquarters where district officials and implementing agencies are called with Resource Persons provided by the Ministry. He also informed that at present a provision of Rs. 20 lakh per annum had been made for imparting training to the officials in the States.

5. The Members raised various issues connected with the implementation of the MPLAD Scheme, viz. mandatory imparting of training to all the District level officials for correct interpretation of the MPLADS guidelines; appointing an exclusive officer in each District for attending to day-to-day problems faced by the Members in execution of works under the Scheme; need for imparting training to the officials at least once a year because of frequent transfers of the officials; etc. The representative of the Ministry replied to all the issues raised by the Members.

6. The acting Chairman thanked the representatives of the Ministry for appearing before the Committee and for furnishing the information that the Committee desired in connection with the examination of the subject.

7. A copy of the verbatim proceedings of the meeting has been kept for record.

The Committee then adjourned.

MINUTES OF THE EIGHT SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (LOK SABHA) HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 16 JUNE 2010.

The Committee sat on Wednesday, 16 June 2010 from 1130 hours to 1215 hours in Committee Room 'D', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Kailash Joshi - In the Chair

MEMBERS

2. Dr. Rattan Singh Ajnala
3. Dr. Baliram
4. Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar
5. Adv. Ganeshrao Nagorao Dudhgaonkar
6. Shri Shripad Yesso Naik
7. Shri Jagdambika Pal
8. Shri Rajendrasinh Rana
9. Shri Rudramadhab Ray
10. Shri Tufani Saroj
11. Shri Gopal Singh Shekhawat
12. Shri Jagdish Thakor
13. Shri Om Prakash Yadav

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Hardev Singh - Director
2. Shri C. Kalyanasundaram - Under Secretary

2. In view of absence of the Chairman of the Committee (Shri A.K.S. Vijayan), who could not attend the sitting of the Committee due to indisposition, the Committee chose Shri Kailash Joshi, Member of the Committee to act as Chairman for the sitting under Rule 258 (3) of the Rules of procedure and conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

3. The acting Chairman welcomed the Members of the Committee. The Committee then took up for consideration two draft reports on the following subjects and adopted the same without any amendments :-

- (i) Awareness in the Implementing Agencies about importance of the MPLAD Scheme through Training Programmes, Seminars, Symposia, Workshops, etc.
- (ii) Providing MPLADS funds to acquire ambulances by reputed service organizations like Red Cross, etc.

4. The Committee authorized the Chairman to finalise the Reports and also to make consequential changes, if any, in the light of factual verification and present them to Lok Sabha.

The Committee then adjourned.
