

**COMMITTEE ON MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT LOCAL  
AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (2011-12)**

**FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA**

**MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND  
PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION**

**PROCEDURES ON PROVISION OF MPLADS FUNDS FOR  
NATURAL CALAMITIES**

**NINTH REPORT**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**

**NEW DELHI**

August/Shravana, 1934 (Saka)

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#### **MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION**

**(Procedures on provision of MPLADS funds for natural  
calamities)**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 9 August, 2012



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**

**NEW DELHI**

August/Shravana, 1934 (Saka)

**C. O. MPLADS 007**

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**COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (LOK SABHA) 2011-12**

Shri A.K.S. Vijayan - Chairman

**MEMBERS**

2. Shri Ghanshyam Anuragi
3. Dr. Baliram
4. Dr. Pulin Bihari Baske
5. Shri Kuldeep Bishnoi\*
6. Smt. Bijoya Chakravarty
7. Dr. Ratna De (Nag)
8. Shri Anant Kumar Hegde
9. Shri Deepender Singh Hooda
10. Shri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain
11. Shri Kaushalendra Kumar
12. Smt. Putul Kumari
13. Shri Babu Lal Marandi
14. Shri Gopinathrao Pandurang Munde
15. Shri Amarnath Pradhan
16. Shri Rudramadhab Ray
17. Shri Gopal Singh Shekhawat
18. Shri Balkrishna Khanderao Shukla
19. Shri K.C. Singh "Baba"
20. Shri Udai Pratap Singh
21. Shri Vijay Inder Singla
22. Shri Jagdish Thakor
23. Shri Om Prakash Yadav
24. Vacant

**SECRETARIAT**

1. Shri V.R. Ramesh - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Hardev Singh - Director
3. Shri C. Kalyanasundaram - Deputy Secretary

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Committee constituted w.e.f. 7 October, 2011 *vide* Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II, 5 December, 2011, (para No.3455).

\* Nominated w.e.f. 23.11.2011.

## 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 Ninth Report on the subject "Procedures on provision of MPLADS funds for natural calamities" pertaining to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

2. The Committee on MPLADS (2010-11) had selected this subject for detailed examination. The Committee were briefed by the representatives of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on 10 May, 2011. Subsequently, the oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry was taken by the Committee on 22 July, 2011. The Committee on MPLADS (2011-12) selected the subject again to finalize the report on the subject and present the same to the Lok Sabha. The draft Report on the subject was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 18 July, 2012.

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

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

New Delhi

7 August, 2012  
Shravana 16, 1934 (Saka)

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

## **CHAPTER - I**

### **Introductory**

The MPLAD Scheme was launched w.e.f. 23 December, 1993 with the objective to enable MPs recommend works of developmental nature with emphasis on creation of durable community assets based on the locally felt needs to be taken up in their constituencies. Right from inception of the Scheme, durable assets of national priorities, viz. drinking water, primary education, public health, sanitation and roads, etc. have been/are being created in the country.

1.2 Natural calamities like floods, cyclone, tsunami, earthquake, hailstorm, avalanche, cloud burst, pest attack, landslides, tornado, drought, fire, etc. pose great threat to life and property in our country. Apart from the regular occurrences of one or the other of the above stated calamities that caused damage to a certain extent, there were also a few major natural calamities that caused damage to life and property to a large extent during the recent years. Super Cyclone of Odisha in 1999, Gujarat earthquake in 2001, Tsunami in 2004 which affected many States, like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Andaman & Nicobar Islands etc., Kosi River floods of Bihar in 2008, Aila cyclone of West Bengal in 2009, Sikkim earthquake in 2011 had resulted in large scale casualties of human lives and destruction of properties.

1.3 The Ministry of Home Affairs informed that in the wake of any natural disaster, the State Governments are initially required to undertake rescue & relief operations in the affected areas out of the corpus of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) which is already placed at their disposal according to the geographical location, magnitude and intensity of the situation of natural disaster.

1.4 The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments, where necessary, by extending financial and logistic support. In case of a calamity of "severe nature", when available resources under the SDRF account are inadequate, additional assistance is extended by the Government of India from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), after

following the laid down procedure which includes visit of Inter ministerial Central Team. The logistic support wherever required is provided immediately to the States by the Government of India, which includes deployment of aircraft, boats, specialist teams of Armed Forces, Central Para Military Forces and personnel of National Disaster Response Force, arrangement for relief material and essential commodities including medical stores, restoration of critical infrastructure facilities.

1.5 In addition to the efforts made by the Union and State Governments, the Members of Parliament also come forward to alleviate the sufferings of the affected people in the wake of any natural calamity. Originally, there was no provision in the MPLAD Scheme guidelines for provision of MPLADS funds for carrying out rehabilitation works in the areas affected by natural calamities. When the super cyclone devastated many areas in the State of Odisha in 1999, MPLADS Committees of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha strongly recommended for amendment in the MPLAD Scheme guidelines to enable MPs to extend financial help out fo their MPLADs fund for rehabilitation work in the areas affected by Super cyclone. Subsequently, the MPLADS guidelines were amended whereby the MPs were authorized to recommend works outside the constituencies/ states for an amount not exceeding Rs.10 lakhs per annum for rehabilitation measures in the event of natural calamity in any part of the country.

1.6 Presently, there are two provisions in the MPLAD Scheme guidelines. The first provision is that Lok Sabha MPs from the non-affected areas of a State can recommend permissible works upto a maximum of Rs.10 lakh per annum in the affected areas of that State. The second provision is 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.

1.7 The Members of Parliament have generously contributed from their MPLADs funds for rehabilitation of areas affected by various natural calamities. The details of the MPLADS funds contributed by Members of Parliament are given below:-



Sl. No.	Natural Calamity	Number of Lok Sabha Members who contributed	Amount contribution (Rs. in lakh)	Number of Rajya Sabha Members who contributed	Amount Contribution (Rs in lakh)
1.	Odisha Cyclone, 1999	77	775	77	775
2.	Gujarat Earthquake, 2001	153	2203	163	2690
3.	Tsunami, 2004	207	2274	167	3134
4.	Kosi Floods, Bihar, 2008	156	2205	173	2281
5.	AILA Cyclone, West Bengal, 2009	8	350	12	165
6.	Leh Cloudburst, 2010	17	285	50	673
7.	Sikkim earthquake, 2011	07	150	Information not furnished by the Ministry.	370
		Total	8242		10088

1.8 It is important that the MPLADs funds consented by the MPs are utilized in time for relief and rehabilitation works in the areas affected by natural calamities as the purpose of providing funds would be defeated if the benefits reach late to the affected people. The committee, therefore, selected the subject "Procedures on provision of MPLADS funds for natural calamities" for examination and report on priority basis. The following chapters examine the subject in detail.

## Chapter – II

### Criteria for deciding the nature of a calamity.

2.1 The World Health Organisation defines a disaster as "any occurrence, that causes damage, ecological disruption, loss of human life, deterioration of health and health services, on a scale sufficient to warrant an extraordinary response from outside the affected community or area". The Committee asked the Ministry of Home Affairs to provide definition of "Calamity". In reply, the Ministry stated that a calamity has been defined in Merriam-Webster dictionary as "a state of deep distress or misery caused by major misfortune or loss: a disastrous event marked by great loss and lasting distress and suffering". The Ministry had further stated in this regard that the Disaster Management Act, 2005 does not use the term 'Calamity'. The term used in the Act is 'disaster' and is defined as "a catastrophe, mishap, calamity or grave occurrence in any area, arising from natural or man-made causes, or by accident or negligence, which results in substantial loss of life, or human suffering, or damage to, and destruction of property, or damage to, or degradation of, environment, and is of such a nature or magnitude as to be beyond the coping capacity of the community of the affected area".

2.2 As per para 2.8 of the MPLAD Scheme Guidelines, whether a calamity is of severe nature or not, is decided by the Government of India. In this regard, the Committee enquired about the criteria laid down for deciding whether a calamity is of severe nature or not. In reply, the Ministry of Home Affairs informed the Committee that "there are no criteria laid down either in the Disaster Management Act or in the guidelines issued there under for deciding whether the calamity is of severe nature. No notification is formally prescribed or issued. However, the Government of India adjudges a calamity of severe nature on case-to-case basis taking into account *inter alia* the intensity and magnitude of the calamity, level of relief assistance, capacity of the State Government to tackle the problem, the alternatives and flexibility available within the plan to provide succor and relief, etc."

2.3 In this regard, the Committee asked whether it would not be more convenient and prudent if a criteria is laid down and norms are fixed taking into consideration various factors to declare a calamity so that relief and assistance is provided in the affected areas without any loss of time. The Ministry of Home Affairs stated in its reply that keeping in view the geographical spread, vulnerability profile of the country, size, terrain and demography of the States, laying down of criteria and fixation of norms for declaring a calamity of severe nature would lead to insurmountable difficulties and was likely to reduce flexibility in determination of different/varying situations.

2.4 The Committee asked about the difficulties visualized by the Ministry of Home Affairs in defining calamities of severe nature, specially when severe calamities have hit the country regularly in the recent past. In reply, the Ministry of Home Affairs in a written reply stated that in case criteria and norms were fixed for declaring a calamity of severe nature, the criteria/norms fixed might help in declaring a calamity of severe nature in one State/States/region but same criteria/norms might not be realistic in declaring a calamity of severe nature in another State/States/region because of the factors like size, terrain, demography of the States/regions in the country. As such, the present system of adjudging a calamity of severe nature on case-to-case basis after taking into account various factors did not pose any difficulty in declaring calamity of severe nature.

2.5 The Committee wanted to know whether the decision for declaring drought/flood as a calamity lies with one Ministry and earth quake/tsunami lies with another Ministry and if so, what step has been taken by the Ministry of Home Affairs to allocate this declaration work with one Ministry. In this regard, the Ministry in a note submitted as under :

"The responsibilities for declaring natural calamities are vested with different Ministries for the reasons that each natural calamity is different in nature and its declaration is a specialized activity requiring highly skilled trained manpower and specialized equipments. As such, based on the nature of work allotted, the nodal Ministries for declaring of natural calamities have been identified. It would not be practical to make one Ministry responsible for declaring all the calamities that are different in nature.

However, as per the allocation of business rules, the Ministry of Home Affairs is responsible for coordination of relief measures in the event of notified natural calamities (except drought, pest attack and hailstorms) of a severe nature, excluding specific items of business allocated to other Ministries of Department. Presently, the natural calamities identified for the purpose of relief assistance from SDRF/NDRF are cyclone, drought, earthquake, fire, flood, tsunami, hailstorm, landslide, avalanche, cloud burst and pest attack. The Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is responsible for coordination of relief measures in the event of notified natural calamities of drought, pest attack and hailstorms."

2.6 The Ministry of Home Affairs was enquired as to how much time does the Ministry take to declare a calamity as a calamity of severe nature from the date of occurrence of such a calamity. In response, the Ministry of Home Affairs stated that no time line was prescribed. the priority was immediate response and relief assistance. However, in the case of Leh cloud burst in 2010, the calamity was declared as of severe nature within there days from the date of receipt of request to that effect from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariats.

## Chapter – III

### Procedures for provision of MPLAD Scheme funds for natural calamities

#### (a) Provisions in the MPLADS guidelines

3.1 The provisions for use of MPLADS funds to carry out permissible works in the areas affected by a natural calamity are as under:-

**Para 2.7** Natural & Man-made Calamities: MPLADS works can also be implemented in the areas prone to or affected by the calamities like floods, cyclone, Tsunami, earthquake, hailstorm, avalanche, cloud burst, pest attack, landslides, tornado, drought, fire and chemical, biological and radiological hazards. Lok Sabha MPs from the non-affected areas of the State can also recommend permissible works up to a maximum of Rs.10 lakh per annum in the affected area(s) in that State. The funds would be released by the Nodal district of the MP concerned to the District Authority of the affected district. MPLADS funds may be pooled by the District Authority of the affected district for works permissible in the Guidelines. The Works Completion Report, Utilization Certificate and Audit Certificate for such works and funds will be provided by the District Authority of the affected districts to the respective District Authority from whom the funds were received.

**Para 2.8** In the event of "Calamity of severe nature" in any part of the country, an MP can recommend works up to a maximum of Rs.50 lakh for the affected district. Whether a calamity is of severe nature or not, will be decided by the Government of India. The funds in this regard will be released by the District Authority of Nodal district of the MP concerned to the District Authority of the affected district to get permissible works done. The Works Completion Report, Utilization Certificate and Audit Certificate for such works and funds will be provided by the District Authority of the affected districts to the respective District Authority from whom the funds were received

Recently, the annual allocation under MPLAD Scheme to an MP was increased to Rs. 5 crore. The Ministry were, therefore, asked whether there was any plan to increase the present annual ceilings of Rs. 10 lakh and Rs. 50 lakh for permissible works in the areas affected by a natural calamity. The Ministry stated in its reply that it would like to have the suggestions of the Committee, if any.

#### (b) Analysis of procedure for provision of MPLADS funds

3.2 On declaration by the Ministry of Home Affairs that any natural calamity as a Calamity of severe nature, the Minister of Statistics and Programme Implementation generally issues an appeal to all the Members of Parliament to contribute from their MPLADS funds for rehabilitation works in the areas affected by the natural calamity. Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha Secretariats also issue paras in their respective Bulletins drawing attention of the Members of Parliament to the provisions contained in Para 2.8 of the guidelines. In the case of Kosi floods of Bihar, a joint appeal was also made by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha and the Speaker, Lok Sabha for contribution by MPs from MPLADS funds. A format of consent letter of MPs (Annexure-I) who

would like to contribute their MPLADS funds for rehabilitation works is also circulated to MPs alongwith Minister's appeal. Perusal of the format shows that it is addressed to the Chairman, Committee on MPLADS and a copy endorsed to the Director (MPLADS), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The consent letters addressed to the Chairman, Committee on MPLADS are forwarded to the Ministry for further necessary action at its end. In regard to the procedure being followed by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for carrying out rehabilitation works on the MPLADS funds consented by the Members of Parliament, the Ministry in a written reply to the question raised in this regard had stated as follows:-

"When a calamity is declared of a severe nature and the funds are consented by the MPs from their MPLADS funds, the information regarding projects to be undertaken with the consented amount of MPs is sought from the State Government concerned. The proposals are further finalized in consultation with Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha Committees on MPLADS and the District Authority of the Nodal district of the concerned MP is requested to transfer the amount to the Implementing District for taking up the approved work in the affected area."

3.3 In this regard, attention of the Ministry was brought to the provision in para 2.7 that the funds would be released by the Nodal district of the MP concerned to the District Authority of the affected district and the MPLADS funds may be pooled by the District Authority of the affected district for works permissible in the guidelines. It was asked whether this provision is being strictly adhered to by the implementing agencies and whether any practical difficulties are being faced in the implementation of the provision. The Ministry in its reply had stated that implementation of the natural calamity works as per MPLADS Guidelines was the responsibility of District Authority of the affected district. No practical difficulty in that regard had been pointed out by the District Authorities to the Ministry. The Ministry were further enquired as to how does it ensure that the implementation of such works was done as per MPLADS Guidelines by the District Authority of the affected district. In the written reply furnished by the Ministry, it was stated that the District Authority of the affected district was also required to follow the same MPLADS Guidelines for implementation of MPLADS works in the affected area due to natural calamity. The nodal district authority was required to capture the utilization of fund transferred to the affected district while sending the consolidated documents viz. Utilisation Certificate, Audit Certificate and Monthly Progress Report to the Ministry for release of funds.

3.4 Paras 2.7 and 2.8 of the Guidelines stipulate that the Works Completion Report, Utilisation Certificate and Audit Certificate for such works and funds are provided by the District Authority of the affected district to the respective District Authority from whom the funds were received. When the Ministry was asked whether there had been delays in furnishing these

Reports and Certificates by the District Authorities and what mechanism the government would evolve to ensure their timely submission, the Ministry in its written reply stated as under:-

"It is the responsibility of the District Authority of the affected district to furnish the Work Completion Reports, Utilisation Certificate and Audit Certificates to the Nodal district of the concerned MP within one month from the completion of work. This Ministry has been emphasizing to adhere to the Guidelines, whenever the delay is found in completion of the projects. This Ministry does not release 2nd installment whenever UC not is available for previous year and AC not is available for the year prior to the previous year."

3.5 In this regard, the Committee wanted to know the number of cases of delay in furnishing the requisite information which had come to the notice of the Ministry. In response, the Ministry stated in its written reply that it was being reiterated in the Bi-annual Review Meetings with the Nodal Secretaries of State/UT Governments with respect to the submission of work completion Report, Utilisation Certificates and Audit Certificates to the nodal district of the concerned MP within one month from the completion of the work. No such cases of delay had been reported to it in that regard by the District Authorities. However, Nodal State governments were requested by the Ministry to furnish the information in this regard vide its letter No. C/08/2011 – MPLADS (Pt – I) dated 27.07.2011. (Annexure – II).

3.6 It was brought to the notice of the Ministry that the District Authorities were very slow in identifying relief and rehabilitation works in the affected areas. Even after identification of works, the time for execution of such works was unusually long. After availability of funds under the MPLADS are known, the Ministry should instruct the District Authorities to identify works within a reasonable period of time, say one month and execute the works within six months of their identification. The comments of the Ministry on this suggestion was sought. The Ministry commented in this regard as under:-

"On receipt of consented amount from the Nodal district of the Hon'ble MPs by the Implementing district to undertake the approved works in the severely affected areas, the district authority of the implementing district is required to follow the MPLADS guidelines for implementing as well as monitoring the works. The district authority is required to follow the time frame for completing the works as stipulated in the guidelines".

3.7 When the Ministry was further asked whether it had undertaken any State-wise review of the utilization of funds under the MPLADS for works executed in calamity affected areas, it was informed in a written reply that in the bi-Annual Review Meetings with the Nodal Secretaries of the State/UT Governments, a separate review with emphasis on physical and financial progress of works undertaken from MPLADS funds contributed by MPs on severe natural calamity affected area was taken up. State level review meetings of State Chief Secretaries with district officials, was also required to take a similar review for districts severely affected by natural calamity.

3.8 In this regard, the Committee asked whether the State level review meetings of State's Chief Secretary are held with district officials to monitor the works in calamity affected areas and what follow-up action are taken. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Information in its written reply informed the Committee that Para 6.3 of the MPLAD Scheme Guidelines stipulates that State Nodal Department was required to hold review meeting on implementation of MPLADS under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary at least once a year, where MPs were invited. The necessity of this meeting was reiterated in the bi-annual meetings of the Nodal Secretaries. They have further stated that the concerned State Nodal Departments who had received funds from MPLADS under 'severe natural calamity' have been requested to furnish the reply in this regard (Annexure – III).

3.9 When the Ministry of Home Affairs was requested to provide its suggestions for better utilization of MPLADS funds consented by MPs for rehabilitation works, in a written reply it was suggested that a strong monitoring and certifying mechanism was required to ensure that funds were utilized for the purpose for which it had been allotted. A third party mechanism could also be instituted.

3.10 In response to a query whether concurrent evaluation/monitoring of rehabilitation works is done at the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation level, it was stated as under:-

"Ministry has not taken up concurrent monitoring of the works taken up separately for the natural calamity area. However, considering the essentiality of an effective monitoring mechanism for implementation of the Scheme, the Ministry has, envisaged direct physical monitoring of MPLADS works on sample basis in selected districts, through an independent agency viz. NABARD Consultancy Services (NABCONS) launched from 2007-08 which also covers the works undertaken in the areas affected due to natural calamities. Any deviations reported by NABCONS, are brought to the notice of district authority for corrective measures. This initiative was envisaged in 2007-2008 as an important instrument for monitoring and a source of feedback on the status of implementation at the ground level, so that corrective action may be taken. So far, 208 districts of the country have been covered in first four phases such as 30 districts in 2007-08, 43 districts in 2008-09, 60 districts in 2009-10 and 75 districts in fourth phase. Based on these reports, the concerned District authorities have been asked to take corrective measures".

3.11 When the Committee asked about the steps taken for better utilization of MPLADS funds in calamity affected areas, the Ministry in a written reply stated:-

"From current Financial Year, an administrative outlay of 2 per cent has been approved by the Cabinet within the total annual allocation of each M.P per annum which is to be distributed to District Authorities/State Nodal Authorities. The same will facilitate the District and State Authorities for better implementation and monitoring of the MPLAD Scheme including the works undertaken in the calamity affected areas".

3.12 Further, for the effective implementation of this provision in the affected areas, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation informed that as per the provision in the MPLADS Guidelines, regular monitoring on the implementation of MPLADS project was to be carried out for the effective implementation of MPLAD Scheme by district authorities.

3.13 The Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and programme Implementation in his communication to the Chief Secretaries of the States, had inter-alia identified the following issues in the implementation of Scheme which are also applicable in the cases of rehabilitation works being carried out in the areas affected by natural calamities:-

- (i) Non sanction/non-adherence to the time frame in sanction and completion of recommended works by the MP.
- (ii) Inadequate supervision of works under MPLADS.
- (iii) Non submission/delayed submission of Utilisation Certificate, Audit Certificate, Monthly Progress Report to the State Nodal Agency as well as to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation which results in delay in release of due installment by Ministry.
- (iv) Non-maintenance of asset register/stock register of works created under MPLADS.
- (v) Lack of review meetings at district level where MPs are to be invited, and at the Chief Secretary level as stipulated in the Guidelines.

3.14 The Secretary had suggested the following steps for effective, timely and fruitful utilization of MPLADS funds:-

- (i) Pro-active and timely sanction and execution of eligible recommended works within the time frame as stipulated in the Guidelines.
- (ii) Timely and proper monitoring of works at the execution stage.
- (iii) Urgent submission of Utilisation Certificate, Audit Certificate, Monthly Progress Report to the State Nodal Agency as well as to the Ministry to release the due installment on time.
- (iv) Maintain asset/stock/account register of the works created under MPLADS.



## **CHAPTER – IV**

### **Status of utilization of MPLADS funds consented by MPs (Lok Sabha) for various natural calamities**

4.1 As already stated, the Members of Parliament had generously contributed from their MPLADS funds for rehabilitation works in areas affected by various natural calamities within and outside their States. The status of utilization of MPLADS funds consented by MPs (Lok Sabha) for major natural calamities which occurred after Super Cyclone of Odisha, 1999 and which were declared as "natural calamities of severe nature" by the Ministry of Home Affairs has been discussed in the following paragraphs:-

#### **(a) ODISHA CYCLONE**

4.2 On 29 October, 1999, a super cyclone devastated many areas in Odisha. In order to enable the MPs to extend financial help for rehabilitation work in the effected areas in Odisha, the Guidelines of MPLADS were amended at the instance of MPLADS Committees of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, whereby the MPs were authorised to recommend works outside the constituencies/States for an amount not exceeding Rs. 10 lakhs per annum for rehabilitation measures in the event of natural calamity in any part of the country. Out of the contributed amount of Rs. 775 lakhs by 77 Lok Sabha MPs, 83 schools were constructed.

#### **(b) GUJARAT EARTHQUAKE -**

4.3 An earthquake of devastating intensity had rocked the State of Gujarat on 26 January, 2001 causing tremendous loss of life and property in Kutch, Rajkot, Surendernagar, Surat, Patan, Ahmedabad, Banaskantha, Navasari and Porbandar Districts of Gujarat. As per the then extant Guidelines only Rs. 10 lakh could be contributed by an MP to the area of natural calamity of severe nature. However, in the case of Gujarat Earthquake , this provision was relaxed and MPs were allowed to contribute as much amount as they wished for taking up reconstruction work in the earthquake affected areas of Gujarat.

4.4 In response, 153 Lok Sabha MPs contributed Rs. 22,03,23400/- and 163 Rajya Sabha MPs contributed Rs. 26,90,00,000/- . HUDCO and NBCC were selected as the implementing

agencies by the Committees on MPLADS (LS & RS) and authorized to take up the works on 50:50 basis. Accordingly, NBCC was entrusted 493 works and HUDCO was entrusted 332 works. Both NBCC & HUDCO have completed the works authorized to them.

4.5 After completing the entrusted works, out of the unspent balance of funds contributed by Lok Sabha MPs, 305 Aanganwadis and Primary Health Centres (PHCs) were approved. As per the latest information, works on 272 Aanganwadis have been completed, construction of 8 Aanganwadis are in progress and 25 are yet to start due to land related reasons.

4.6 In its background note, the Ministry had stated that the Government of Gujarat had informed that an amount of Rs.9.42 crore including interest was still available with them from the funds contributed by MPs for rehabilitation works in the areas affected by Gujarat Earthquake. This issue was raised by the Committee during briefing meeting held on 10 May, 2011 and asked for the reasons for inordinate delay in this regard. In this regard, a representative of the Ministry replied as under:

"As per information submitted by Gujarat Government, which is available with us, they have actually intimated that Rs.9 crore, which included interests, was available with them. They had sent a proposal for construction of Government schools for Rs.5.50 crore but we have not taken up that issue because we wanted full details from the State government, which has not been provided to us. Regarding construction of various works under the Scheme, the works have been undertaken in the areas affected by Earthquake, especially we cannot say whether new works have been taken up or whether the reconstruction done in for affected works. At this moment, we would not be able to give such details..... This issue has been raised in our by-annual review meetings with the officers of the Gujarat Government and also, we have written 3-4 letters to the Chief Secretary and other officials connected with the works to give us full details about the works undertaken by them, work-wise. We wanted the full details. Those details have not been received by us, despite our best efforts."

4.7 The Ministry further informed the Committee in its background note submitted for examination by the Committee (2011-12) as follows:-

"As per the information received from Government of Gujarat vide their letter dated 11.08.2011, a total of Rs.9.42 Crores [Rs. 4.66 crores (in respect of Lok Sabha MPs) and Rs.4.76 crores (in respect of RS) (inclusive of interest)] was there as unspent balance. State Government has been requested to furnish the proposal of the projects to be undertaken out of these amount. The reply is yet to be received despite several reminders."

(c) **TSUNAMI**

4.8 In the wee hours of 26 December 2004, tsunami waves triggered by an earthquake severely affected the eastern coastal region of India which mainly included Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. In the aftermath of this unprecedented tsunami disaster, the Government relaxed the provision of the MPLADS Guidelines so as to enable the Members of Parliament to recommend any amount out of their entitlement to help rehabilitation/reconstruction works in affected areas from their MPLADS fund. 207 Lok Sabha MPs and 167 Rajya Sabha MPs consented for Rs. 22.74 crore and Rs. 31.34 crore, respectively for tsunami relief, out of which Rs.21.89 crore was authorized by Lok Sabha Secretariat and Rs. 31.34 crore by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

4.9 Community infrastructural assets eligible under the MPLADS Guidelines, and approved by the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Committees on MPLADS, such as schools, hospitals, public health centres, community halls, fisherman multipurpose halls, cyclone shelters, desalination plants, construction of old age homes, orphanage buildings, hostels, sanitary complexes, fish landing centres, library buildings, ambulances etc. were taken up for rehabilitation in the Tsunami affected States.

4.10 As on 31.12.2011, an expenditure of Rs.4886.91 lakh had been incurred on Tsunami Relief as per Tsunami Status Reports received from affected districts.

(Rs in lakhs)

State	Works				Expenditure	
	Authorised	Completed	On going	Dropped/ cancelled	Estimated	Incurred
Andhra Pradesh	36	35	-	1	253.00	235.47
Kerala	6	4	2	-	273.00	156.85
Tamil Nadu	116	114	1	1	2122.00	1977.58
A&N Islands	18	16	2	-	2128.91	1974.61
Puducherry	11	11	-	-	542.50	542.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5319.41</b>	<b>4886.91</b>

**(d) KOSI FLOODS IN BIHAR**

4.11 Extensive damage was caused by the unprecedented and devastating floods in Kosi river on August 18, 2008 in the State of Bihar particularly in the districts of Madhepura, Supaul, Saharsa, Purnia, and Araria. The Ministry of Home Affairs(Disaster Management- Division declared the natural calamity as a “ calamity of severe nature” In response to the appeal by the Chairman of the State Disaster Management Committee on 03.09.2008 and by the Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on 11.09.2008, 156 Lok Sabha MPs and 173 Rajya Sabha MPs had consented to contribute Rs.22.05 crore and Rs.22.81 crore, respectively (Totalling Rs.44.86Cr). The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation authorized construction of 44 Disaster-cum-Community Shelters and 38 cattle shelters out of the MPLADS funds. In this regard, the Government of Bihar intimated the Ministry that the cost of the proposed Shelters had been increased to Rs. 53.250 lakh per Disaster shelter and Rs. 14.516 lakh per Cattle Shelter as against earlier proposal of Rs. 46.28 lakh and Rs.12 lakh per Shelter respectively due to change in rates of various components and that the funds proposed earlier for individual project under MPLADS were not sufficient and that only a total of 35 Disaster and 35 Cattle Shelters could be constructed if all the funds were taken together (both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha). The State had also changed the sites completely which were earlier authorized by the Ministry. The Committee were informed by the Ministry that the new list of sites itself was received from the Government of Bihar after a lot of persuasion and delay. The said list, so made available, contained sites only in the districts of Saharsa, Supaul and Madhepura. It is noted from the reply of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation that the Government of Bihar could not provide the details of sites in the remaining two flood affected districts and hence, it was decided that the works already approved by it alone may be carried out from the contribution of Members and the remaining funds be returned to the remaining Members.

4.12 In consultation with Lok Sabha /Rajya Sabha Committees on MPLADS, the Ministry then distributed the consented amount to the State Govt. of Bihar to construct 35 Disaster-cum-Community Shelters and 35 Cattle Shelters at the rate of Rs.53.35 lakh per disaster shelter and Rs. 14.516 lakh per cattle shelter from the consented amount of Hon'ble MPs of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. Out of this, 16 Disaster-cum-Community Shelters and 16 Cattle Shelters are to be constructed from the amount consented by the members of Lok Sabha.

4.13 The Ministry were asked to furnish the dates of commencement and completion of works and the present status in case of their non-completion. In reply, the Ministry had stated that no information was received from the district authorities of the affected districts regarding commencement/ completion or the present status of works. When the Committee asked about the action taken by the Ministry in that regard, the Ministry in a written reply stated as follows:-`

"In respect of Kosi flood affected areas of Bihar, delay has been occurred in finalizing the works to be carried out from the MPLADs funds by the State Government. A meeting was held on 13.06.2011 with the Bihar State Chief Secretary and Secretary, Rural Works Department by the Additional Secretary (S&PI). The State Government has been requested to expedite the works in Kosi flood affected areas in Bihar".

In its latest background note, the Ministry informed the Committee that information on progress of works undertaken was yet to be received from the State Government of Bihar despite several reminders by it.

**(e) CYCLONE AILA – WEST BENGAL**

4.14 The cyclone AILA hit the state of West Bengal on 25 May, 2009 in which Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar, South Dinajpur, Malda, Murshidabad, South 24 Parganas, North 24 parganas, Hooghly, Burdwan, Hawrah and Purba Medinipur districts were affected by the cyclone. Ministry of Home Affairs declared it a "calamity of severe nature". The Minister of Statistics and Programme Implementation appealed to all the Hon'ble MPs (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha) to consent the amount of money from their respective MPLADS fund as per provisions of the MPLADS Guidelines for rehabilitation works in the cyclone affected districts. Lok Sabha Secretariat and Rajya Sabha Secretariat had also separately issued paras in their bulletins to draw the attention of the MPs for contribution from their respective MPLADs funds.

4.15 In response, 12 Rajya Sabha MPs and 8 Lok Sabha MPs contributed Rs. 350 lakh and Rs.165 lakh, respectively from their respective MPLADS fund for rehabilitation works in the affected districts in West Bengal. Thus the total contribution was Rs. 515 lakh. The Committee asked for the status of progress of the works in affected areas. In this regard, the Ministry informed the Committee that as reported by the Government of West Bengal, 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.

**(f) LEH CLOUD BURST**

4.16 On 6 August, 2010, floods caused by a cloud burst devastated the Leh area in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. At the request of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariats, it was declared by the Ministry of Home Affairs as a 'Calamity of Severe Nature'. Subsequently, the Minister of Statistics and Programme Implementation made an appeal to the Members of Parliament to contribute from their MPLADS funds on 27 August, 2010. Lok Sabha Secretariat had also issued a para in Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II on 13 August, 2010 inviting attention of the Members of Lok Sabha to the provisions contained in Para 2.8 of the guidelines. In response, 17 Lok Sabha Members had contributed Rs. 285 lakh from their MPLADS funds and 50 Rajya Sabha Members had contributed Rs.673 lakhs. It was proposed by the Ministry that the funds consented by the Members may be used for construction and purchase of equipment for SNM Hospital, Leh, restoration of Micro-Hydel scheme, Hunder Nubra, construction of 14 meter clear span motorable steel girder over Hunder Nallah and construction of abutment and approaches for 60 ft. span bally bridge over Nimo Nallah and Nimo Drukpa Road.

4.17 In this regard, the Ministry was asked to furnish the status of progress works authorized for rehabilitation. In reply the Ministry had stated that the following works were already taken up by the District Authority, Leh.

Sl. No.	Funds allotted by	Name of works	Estimated cost	Financial Progress	Physical Progress
1.	Smt. Meira Kumar, Hon'ble MP(LS)	Rehabilitation / Restoration of Micro Hydel Scheme, Hunder Nubra	20.00	8.00	Work in progress
2.	Dr. M. S. Gill Hon'ble MP (RS)	Procurement of Portable Ultrasound Machine for SNM Hospital, Leh	20.00	-	Procurement of machine under progress
3.	Dr. Farooq Abdullah Hon'ble MP(LS)	Procurement of Medical equipment for SNM Hospital, Leh	50.00	17.70	Part equipment procured.

4.18 The Ministry further informed the Committee that all the Nodal Districts of the Hon'ble Members of Parliament who had contributed funds for rehabilitation works in Leh District had been requested to transfer the funds of the concerned MP to the Deputy Commissioner, Leh. Deputy Commissioner, Leh District had been requested to intimate the status of authorized rehabilitation/ reconstruction work.

**(g) SIKKIM EARTHQUAKE**

4.19 An earthquake of massive intensity had caused substantial destruction in north-eastern States especially in Sikkim on 18 September, 2011. Considering the nature of damage and destruction caused by this disaster, the Government of India had declared the natural calamity in Sikkim as a calamity of severe nature. The Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Statistics and Programme Implementation had appealed on 7 October, 2011 to the Members of Parliament to recommend funds from their MPLADS funds for taking up rehabilitation works in the affected areas. Lok Sabha Secretariat had also issued a Para in Lok Sabha Bulletin dated 25 October, 2011 in the matter. Subsequently, 12 Members of Lok Sabha had contributed Rs.146 lakh for rehabilitation works. The Ministry informed the Committee that Rajya Sabha Members had contributed Rs.370 lakh for the purpose. In regard to the progress of works, the Ministry in its background note informed that the Chief Secretary, Government of Sikkim has been requested by the Ministry to furnish proposals and the reply is awaited from the State Government.

4.20 On the request received from Shri Jaswant Singh, MP, the Ministry had requested the Ministry of Home Affairs to clarify whether the damage occurred in Darjeeling area of the West Bengal due to the Sikkim earthquake could be considered as a natural calamity of severe nature. Subsequent to the declaration of the calamity as calamity of severe nature by the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Statistics and Programme Implementation had issued an appeal to the Members of Parliament for consenting MPLADS funds for carrying out rehabilitation works in Darjeeling. A para was also issued in Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 20 and 26 March, 2012. In response, three Members of Lok Sabha had consented for Rs. 25 lakhs. Three consent letters received from the Members have been sent to the Ministry for necessary action at their end.



## Observations/ Recommendations

5.1 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.

5.2 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.

5.3 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.

5.4 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.

**5.5** 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.

**5.6** 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.

5.7 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.

**5.8** The Committee deprecate 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.

**5.9** 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.

5.10 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.

5.11 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.

**5.12 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. Even after 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.**

**5.13 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.

5.14 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.

5.15 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.

5.16 The Committee regret to note that only three works are in progress in the case of Leh cloudburst which occurred on 6 August, 2010. Even though 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.

5.17 The Committee are constrained to note that work proposals are still awaited from the Government of Sikkim even though the earth quake 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.

New Delhi

7 August, 2012  
Shravana 16, 1934 (Saka)

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

LETTER OF CONSENT  
(on Letter Head)

I, Shri/Smt. \_\_\_\_\_ hereby give my consent for release of Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ from my MPLADS funds for relief/rehabilitation works in the earth quake affected areas of Darjeeling district, West Bengal.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF MP: \_\_\_\_\_

The Chairman,  
Committee on MPLADS (LS/RS),  
Parliament House,  
New Delhi.

Copy to:

The Director (MPLADS),  
Ministry of Statistics & PI,  
211, Sardar Patel Bhavan,  
New Delhi-110001.

अनिल कुमार चौधरी  
निदेशक  
**ANIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY**  
DIRECTOR  
TEL : 23344933  
FAX : 23364197



Annexure II  
SPEED POST  
भारत सरकार  
सांख्यिकी एवं कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय  
211, सरदार पटेल भवन, नई दिल्ली -110001  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION  
211, SARDAR PATEL BHAVAN, NEW DELHI-110001  
E-mail : akchoudhary@nic.in

No. C/08/2011-MPLADS (Pt-I)

27.07.2011

To,

All States/UTs Nodal Secretaries.

**Subject:** District level review meetings on MPLADS – review of works undertaken in natural calamity affected area-reg.

Sir,

As per para-6.4 (vi) of the MPLADS Guidelines, the District Authority is required to review MPLADS works implementation with the Implementing Agencies every month. This has been reiterated vide circular No. C/16/2009-MPLADS dated 31.03.2010 to hold the district level review meeting atleast once in every quarter in which MPs are invited.

2. As per para-2.7 & 2.8 of the MPLADS Guidelines, the Works Completion Report, Utilisation Certificate and Audit Certificate in respect of works undertaken in Natural Calamity area from the funds of MPLADS to be submitted within one month from the completion of the work by the district authority of the affected areas to the respective district authority from whom the funds were received.

3. As desired by the Lok Sabha Committee on MPLADS, the State government is to furnish the reply of the following points in consultation with the district authority:-

1. (i) Whether the aforesaid provision of review of works is being strictly followed by the District Authorities? What is the outcome of such Review meetings? Please furnish details.

(ii) If not, what are the reasons?

2. (i) Whether the affected district authority strictly adhere to the provision for submitting the Works Completion Report, Utilisation Certificate and Audit Certificate in respect of works undertaken in Natural Calamity area from the funds of MPLADS to the respective district authority from whom the funds were received within one month from the completion of the work?

(ii) How many cases of delay in furnishing the requisite information have come to the notice of the concerned district and what action has been taken thereon by the non-affected district authority who transferred the fund to the affected district?

4. You are therefore, requested to furnish the reply of the above points immediately latest by 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2011 so that to enable the Ministry to furnish the same to the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

Yours faithfully,

  
(A.K. Choudhary)

Issued  
29/7/11

- 29 -

SPEED POST

संसद स्थानीय क्षेत्र विकास योजना  
Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme



सत्यमेव जयते

अनिल कुमार चौधरी  
निदेशक  
ANIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY  
DIRECTOR  
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भारत सरकार  
सांख्यिकी एवं कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय  
211, सरदार पटेल भवन, नई दिल्ली - 110001  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION  
211, SARDAR PATEL BHAVAN, NEW DELHI-110001  
E-mail : akchoudhary@nic.in

27.07.2011

No. C/08/2011-MPLADS (Pt-I)

To,

The Additional Chief Secretary,  
Department of Planning,  
Govt. of Gujarat,  
7th Block, 4th Floor,  
Sardar Bhavan Sachivalaya,  
Gandhinagar.

**Subject: State level review meetings on MPLADS under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretaries with district officials – review of works undertaken in natural calamity affected area-reg.**

Sir,

As per the provision laid down in Para 2.8 of the MPLADS, an amount of Rs.22,03,23,400 by Lok Sabha MPs and an amount of Rs.26,90,00,000 by Rajya Sabha MPs were contributed from their MPLADS funds for works to be taken up in the earthquake affected areas of your State and some of the works are yet to be completed. As per the provision laid down in para-6.3 of MPLADS Guidelines, a state level review meeting under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretaries is to be held atleast once in a year for reviewing the MPLADS works in the State. In the proposed meeting along with the review of other MPLADS works, the works taken up in severe natural calamity affected area is also to be reviewed.

2. As desired by the Lok Sabha Committee on MPLADS, the State government is to furnish the reply of the following points:-


(i) Whether State level review meetings of State's Chief Secretary have been held with District officials to monitor the works in calamity affected areas

(ii) If so, kindly furnish the date(s) of the review meetings, their agenda and the minutes thereof, as well as the follow-up action taken.

(iii) If no, why?

3. You are therefore, requested to furnish the reply of the above points immediately latest by 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2011 so that to enable the Ministry to furnish the same to the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

Yours faithfully,

  
(A.K. Choudhary)

Received  
28/7/11

30-

**MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON MEMBERS OF  
PARLIAMENT LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (LOK SABHA) HELD ON  
TUESDAY, 10 MAY 2011.**

—

The Committee sat on Tuesday, 10 May 2011 from 1430 hours to 1600 hours in  
ommittee oom B Parliament o se nne e e elhi.

**PRESENT**

Shri A.K.S. Vijayan - In the Chair

**MEMBERS**

2. Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar
3. Adv. Ganeshrao Nagorao Dudhgaonkar
4. Shri D.B. Chandre Gowda
5. Shri Kaushalendra Kumar
6. Shri Babu Lal Marandi
7. Shri Jagdambika Pal
8. Shri Amarnath Pradhan
9. Shri Tufani Saroj
10. Shri Gopal Singh Shekhawat
11. Shri Jagdish Thakor
12. Shri Om Prakash Yadav

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**

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

**REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME  
IMPLEMENTATION**

1. Dr. T.C.A. Anant - Secretary
2. Dr. Ravendra Singh - Deputy Director General (PI)
3. Dr. Davendra Verma - Deputy Director General (PI)
4. Sh. Anil Kumar Choudhary - Director (MPLADS)

2. t the o tset the on le hairman elcomed the Mem ers and the  
representatives of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation to the sitting  
of the Committee. The Committee were then briefed by the representatives of the  
Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on the subject "Procedures on  
provision of MPLADS funds for natural calamities" which has been selected by the  
Committee for examination. From the Background Note on the subject furnished by the  
Ministry, the Committee observed that Rs.9 crore contributed from MPLADS funds for

carrying out rehabilitation works in the areas affected by the earthquake in Gujarat in January 2001 was still lying unutilized with the Govt. of Gujarat. In this regard, the Committee were informed by the representatives of the Ministry that the details of works have not been furnished by the State Government despite best efforts by them. The Committee decided that in case the requisite information is not forthcoming from the Govt. of Gujarat within a reasonable period of time, then the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Gujarat might be called before the Committee in the matter .....

3. The 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.

**The Committee then adjourned.**

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**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
**COMMITTEE ON MPLAD SCHEME, LOK SABHA (2010-11)**

**MINUTES OF THE NINTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON MEMBER OF  
PARLIAMENT LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME, LOK SABHA (2010-  
11)**

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The Committee sat on Friday, 22 July 2011 from 1130 hours to 1250 hours in Room No. 62, Parliament House, New Delhi.

**PRESENT**

Shri A.K.S. Vijayan - In the Chair

**MEMBERS**

2. Dr. Rattan Singh Ajnala
3. Dr. Baliram
4. Dr. Pulin Bihari Baske
5. Adv. Ganeshrao Nagorao Dudhgaonkar
6. Shri Kailash Joshi
7. Shri Kaushalendra Kumar
8. Shri Shripad Yesso Naik
9. Shri Jagdambika Pal
10. Shri Amarnath Pradhan
11. Shri Rudramadhab Ray
12. Shri Tufani Saroj
13. Shri Gopal Singh Shekhawat
14. Shri Vijay Inder Singla
15. Shri Om Prakash Yadav

## **SECRETARIAT**

1. Shri V.R. Ramesh - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Hardev Singh - Director
3. Shri Sundar Prasad Das - Deputy Secretary

## **WITNESSES**

### **(i) REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION**

1. Shri Pankaj Jain - Additional Secretary, S&PI
2. Dr. Davendra Verma - Dy. Director General (PI)
3. Shri A.K. Choudhary - Director (MPLADS)
4. Shri Tapan Mitra - Deputy Secretary (MPLADS)

### **(ii) REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

1. Shri A.E. Ahmad - Secretary (Border Management)
2. Shri R.K. Srivastava - Joint Secretary (Disaster Management)
3. Shri Dev Kumar - Director (Disaster Mngt. - I)

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the members of the Committee and the representatives of the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation and the Ministry of Home Affairs to the sitting of the Committee. The Committee then took oral evidence of the representatives of aforesaid Ministries on the subject, "Procedures on provision of MPLAD Scheme funds for natural calamities". The Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs briefed the Committee on the said subject. He informed that presently there was no criteria laid down either in the Disaster Management Act or in the guidelines issued there under for deciding



whether the calamity was of a severe nature or not. The Govt. of India adjudged a calamity of severe nature on case-to-case basis. Thereafter, the members of the Committee raised the issues relating to providing immediate relief and rescue in the affected areas after occurrence of a disaster, the difficulties perceived by the Ministry of Home Affairs in differentiating between a 'Calamity' and a 'calamity of severe nature'. The setting of criteria and norms for declaration of a calamity, steps taken by the Ministry to augment the resources at the State and District levels to face the calamities of severe nature etc. were also raised by the members of the Committee.

3. Thereafter, the representatives of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation replied on various issues like review meetings being taken by Chief Secretaries of the States with District officials, proper implementation of works, monitoring mechanism by the Ministry, better utilization of funds in calamity affected areas, etc.

4. The Chairman thereafter thanked the representatives of the Ministries for appearing before the Committee and for furnishing the desired information in connection with the examination of the subject.

5. *A copy of the verbatim proceedings of the sitting was kept.*

*The Committee then adjourned.*

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**COMMITTEE ON MPLAD SCHEME, LOK SABHA (2011-12)**

**MINUTES OF THE SIXTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON MEMBER OF  
PARLIAMENT LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME,  
LOK SABHA (2011-12)**

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The Committee sat on Wednesday, 18 July, 2012 from 1500 hours to 1600 hours in Committee Room E, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

**PRESENT**

Shri A. K. S. Vijayan - In the Chair

**MEMBERS**

2. Shri Ghanshyam Anuragi
3. Dr. Baliram
4. Dr. Pulin Bihari Baske
5. Smt. Bijoya Chakravarty
6. Dr. Ratna De (Nag)
7. Shri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain
8. Shri Kaushalendra Kumar
9. Smt. Putul Kumari
10. Shri Amarnath Pradhan
11. Shri Rudramadhab Ray
12. Shri Gopal Singh Shekhawat
13. Shri K. C. Singh "Baba"
14. Shri Udai Pratap Singh

