

COMMITTEE ON MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT
LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

(THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA)

ELEVENTH REPORT

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
'Proposals to amend Guidelines
on MPLADS'

Presented to Lok Sabha on : 9.4.2003

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

April , 2003/Chaitra ,1925(S)

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INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Committee on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) (2003) having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Eleventh Report on the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation 'Proposals to amend Guidelines on MPLADS.'

2. The Committee considered the representations and proposals received from Hon'ble Ministers and Members of Parliament for amendment to Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme at their sittings held on 31 July, 1 October and 5 December, 2002. The observations/recommendations made in the Report are based on the decisions taken by the Committee at their aforesaid sittings.

3. The Committee considered and adopted the Report at their sitting held on 2 April, 2003.

4. The Committee would like to express their thanks to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for placing before them the written notes and information the Committee desired in connection with examination of the representations and suggestions of Hon'ble Members of Parliament for amendment to the Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme.

5. For facility of reference, the observations/recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in the body of the Report and have also been reproduced in consolidated form in the Appendix to the Report.

New Delhi
April, 2003
Chaitra, 1925(S)

P.H.PANDIAN
Chairman,
Committee on Members of Parliament
Local Area Development Scheme

COMPOSITION OF THE MPLADS COMMITTEE(2003)

Shri P.H. Pandian

-

Chairman

MEMBERS

2. **Shri Raashid Alvi**
3. **Shri Joachim Baxla**
4. **Prof. Dukha Bhagat**
5. **Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi**
6. **Shri Kodikunnil Suresh**
7. **Shri Rajen Gohain**
8. **Shri Chandrakant Khaire**
9. **Shri Vijay Kumar Khandelwal**
10. **Shri C. Kuppusami**
11. **Shri Manjay Lal**
12. **Shri Sis Ram Ola**
13. **Shri Sohan Potai**
14. **Prof. R.R. Pramanik**
15. **Shri Saiduzzama**
16. **Shri Balbir Singh**
17. **Shri Chandra Vijay Singh**
18. **Shri Manoj Sinha**
19. **Shri Bhupendra Sinh Solanki**
20. **Shri Chunni Lal Bhau Thakur**
21. **Shri Vaiko**
22. **Shri Devendra Singh Yadav**
23. **Dr. Jaswant Singh Yadav**
24. **Shri Gutha Sukender Reddy**

SECRETARIAT

1. **Shri John Joseph** - **Additional Secretary**
2. **Shri S.K. Sharma** - **Joint Secretary**
3. **Shri R.N. Kalra** - **Director**
4. **Shri A.S. Chera** - **Deputy Secretary**
5. **Shri P.D. Mahawar** - **Assistant Director**

I

Proposal of Shri A.P. Abdullakutty, MP (LS) regarding inauguration of the projects completed under MPLADS in Kannur Parliamentary constituency of Kerala

1.1 Shri A.P. Abdullakutty, MP (LS) addressed a letter dated 21 May, 2002 to Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha regarding inauguration of Vachiyam, Adampara bridge constructed under MPLAD Scheme in Kannur Parliamentary constituency of Kerala.

1.2 The Hon'ble Member, in his letter, stated as follows:-

“I would like to draw your kind attention towards a very serious problem and seek your immediate intervention and favourable action.

In my constituency Kannur there is a bridge called Vanchiyam-Adampara Bridge in Payyavoor Panchayath which is built utilizing the MPLADS fund. It is a surprise and shock to me that the Inauguration of the Bridge is going to be held on 23 May, 2002 neither taking my consent nor informing me. Not only that the function is to be inaugurated by the State Minister, presided by the MLA and in the presence of the former MP.

This is a clear violation of all the existing rules and regulations and challenging the political ethics. This has already become a controversy in my constituency and all the vernacular dailies published the news giving importance. When I came to know this I contacted the District Collector, Kannur but he refused to intervene and casually said that the function will go on as scheduled. Here I doubt that even this is organised with the connivance of the District Collector.

Sir, I am earnestly requesting your good self to look into the matter urgently and give directions to the concerned authorities to stop the inauguration immediately. You may also please give instruction that they should strictly maintain the procedure while dealing with the cases under the MPLADS fund so that this kind of irresponsible act should not be repeated.”

1.3 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in their communication dated 8 July, 2002 stated as follows:-

“The undersigned is directed to say that the instructions were issued that all the District Heads should inform the concerned Members of Parliament about the time and venue for the inaugural function, organised for projects completed under MPLAD Scheme. On the basis of recommendation of Committee on MPLADS, Lok Sabha, the instructions have been reiterated on 3 July, 2002 to all the Heads of the Districts.

Shri A.P. Abdullakutty, MP (LS) has through his letter dated 21 May, 2002 brought to the notice of this Ministry that in his constituency – Kannur – Kerala, a bridge viz., Vanchiyam Adampara was constructed using MPLADS funds and the same was inaugurated without his consent and without any prior intimation to him. The Collector, Kannur, has reported that the project was implemented utilising MPLADS funds of the former MP namely, Shri Mullapalli Ramachandran. The letter of Shri Abdullakutty indicates that the project was inaugurated by a State Minister in the presence of former MP.

The question has arisen whether the concerned MP is the MP who sponsored the projects and allocated funds for it, or it is the MP in whose time a project is being inaugurated. It is requested that the matter may be placed before the Committee, seeking advice in regard to protocol to be observed both as regards invitation as well as erection of signboards carrying the name of the MP when the MPLADS work recommended by an MP is to be inaugurated after cessation of his membership.”

Recommendation

1.4 The Committee consider the proposal of Shri A.P. Abdullakutty, MP (LS) regarding inauguration of the projects completed under MPLADS in Kannur Parliamentary constituency of Kerala and recommend that both the MPs i.e., former and the present who have contributed from their quota of MPLADS funds should be invited at the time of inauguration of a work executed under the MPLAD Scheme. The Committee also recommend that signboards carrying the name of both the MPs should also be erected at the site of the work completed under the Scheme.

II

Proposal of Shri Anadi Sahu, MP (LS) regarding installation of computers in a Registered Society/Trust under MPLADS in Behrampur Parliamentary constituency of Orissa

2.1 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation addressed a communication dated 1 July, 2002 to the Lok Sabha Secretariat regarding proposal of Shri Anadi Sahu, MP (LS) for installation of computers in a Registered Society/Trust under MPLADS in Behrampur Parliamentary constituency of Orissa.

2.2 The Ministry in their communication stated as follows:-

“Shri Anadi Sahu, MP, Lok Sabha had recommended for installation of computers in Saraswati Shishu Vidya Mandir. The concerned District Collector sought clarification whether computers could be installed in the said school. The Hon’ble Member also took up the matter with this Ministry indicating that the Collector had released 50% of the amount and withheld the rest on the plea that supply of computers to private schools was not permissible.

A reply was sent to the Hon’ble MP informing that present Guidelines on MPLADS permit installation of computers in Government and Government-aided educational institutions only.

The Hon’ble Member has again taken up the matter with the Ministry and suggested that if computers cannot be supplied to Saraswati Shishu Vidya Mandir, these be given to Sikhya Bikash Society. It may be mentioned here that the computers have been permitted only for educational institutions for the benefit of student community that too only for Government and Government aided educational institutions. Providing computers to Registered Society/Trust is not permitted.

The matter may please be placed before the Committee on MPLADS, for their consideration and recommendation.”

Recommendation

2.3 The Committee consider the proposal of Shri Anadi Sahu, MP (LS) for installation of computers in Saraswati Shishu Vidya Mandir in his Behrampur Parliamentary constituency and approve it as there is provision under MPLADS for installing computers in Government and Governemnt aided educational institutions for the benefit of student community.

III

Suggestion regarding contribution of Rs. 10 lakh under MPLAD Scheme for the flood devastated areas of Palghar, Vasai, Dahanu Talukas and Bhiwandi Taluka of Thane District in Maharashtra

3.1 Shri Ram Naik, Hon'ble Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas addressed a letter dated 2 July, 2002 to all Hon'ble Members of Parliament, Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha regarding making a suggestion for contribution of Rs. 10 lakh under MPLAD Scheme for the flood devastated areas of Palghar, Vasai, Dahanu Talukas and Bhiwandi Taluka of Thane District in Maharashtra.

3.2 The Hon'ble Minister, in his letter, stated as follows:-

“With deep sense of grief I wish to inform you that very severe and unprecedented natural calamity has befallen on the people residing in the coastal areas of Palghar, Vasai and Dahanu Talukas and also Bhiwandi Taluka of Thane District in Maharashtra. While Palghar and Vasai are part of my North Mumbai Lok Sabha constituency, Dahanu and Bhiwandi are parts of Dahanu Lok Sabha constituency, which is represented by Shri Chintaman Wanaga, Member of Parliament.

On 27th June, 2002 there was unprecedented rainfall, more than ever witnessed in the living memory of the people of these areas. Palghar had 454 mm, Vasai 229 mm, Dahanu 295 mm and Bhiwandi 240 mm rain. The distance between the hilly terrain and coastal areas is just 14-15 km, as a result of which the rain water flows to the sea as a flash flood giving little chance to the residents in these areas to escape. Moreover, the rainfall was at its peak at about 12 noon which was incidentally 'Amavasya' day when the high tides prevented the flood water being drained into the sea. The result was a flash flood which killed 61 persons. The entire standing rice crop has also been washed away. The flood water entered into the hamlets reaching a level of 8 to 10 feet, washing away all the food grains and utensils. There are good number of small scale industries which were also submerged in the water. The rural village roads, state and national highways have also been extensively damaged. Two railway bridges have also been washed away resulting into total disruption of railway traffic between Mumbai-Ahmedabad and Delhi. It may take some more days for railways to repair the damaged bridges and tracks. Due to disruption of rail traffic the commuters to Mumbai have not been able to attend office for several days.

Myself and Shri Chintaman Wanaga, MP visited many villages in Dahanu, Palghar, Vasai and Bhiwandi Talukas on 29 June, 2002. I would rate this calamity on the lines of Orissa's cyclone or Gujarat's earthquake; but just limited to the four Talukas. The State Government have assessed the total damage at Rs. 149.21 crore.

Myself and Shri Chintaman Wanaga, MP have already decided to contribute Rs. 10 lakh each from our MPLADS fund. You may recall that at the time of Orissa cyclone and Gujarat earthquake most of the MPs had contributed Rs. 10 lakh each from their MPLADS fund. Subsequently, in the revised guidelines, issued in April, 2002 a new para 1.3 on page one has been added which read as follows:-

“MPs can also recommend works outside their Constituencies/ States for construction of assets that are permissible in the Guidelines, for rehabilitation measures in the event

of a natural calamity of rare severity in any part of the country for an amount not exceeding Rs. 10 lakh, for each calamity.”

May I, therefore, appeal to you to come to the help of flood devastated poor people from our area by contributing Rs. 10 lakh from your MPLADS fund? Your contribution may be sent from your Collector to the Collector of Thane, Thane, Maharashtra.

I am sure that you will respond positively.”

3.3 The matter was referred to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for obtaining their comments and the latter in their communication dated 25 July, 2002 stated as follows:-

“The undersigned is directed to refer to the Lok Sabha Secretariat O.M. No. 9/2/90/MPLADSC/2002 dated 22 July, 2002 on the above subject and to say that a similar reference was received in the Ministry from Rajya Sabha Secretariat. A copy of the reply sent to Rajya Sabha Secretariat in the matter, is enclosed.”

The reply sent to Rajya Sabha Secretariat states as follows:-

“The undersigned is directed to refer to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat letter No. RS/7/2002-MPLADS dated 16 July, 2002 on the above subject and to say that Para 1.3 of the Guidelines on MPLADS enables MPs to recommend works outside their constituencies/States for construction of assets that are permissible in the Guidelines, for rehabilitation measures in the event of natural calamity of rare severity in any part of the country for an amount not exceeding Rs. 10 lakh for each calamity. The rain in Thane district during June, 2002 is not a natural calamity of rare severity and therefore would not be covered as per the provisions of Para 1.3.”

Recommendation

3.4 The Committee consider the request of Shri Ram Naik, Hon’ble Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas regarding contribution of Rs. 10 lakh under MPLAD Scheme for the flood devastated areas of Palghar, Vasai, Dahanu Talukas and Bhiwandi Taluka of Thane District in Maharashtra. The Committee recommend that if the State Disaster Management Authority of the concerned State or the Chief Secretary of that State declares that devastation of areas by flood in Palghar, Vasai, Dahanu and Bhiwandi Talukas of Thane district of Maharashtra is of a natural calamity of rare severity, in that situation the Committee approve the proposal.

IV

**Suggestion from Shri Akbor Ali Khandoker, MP (LS) regarding purchase of a
Mobile Diagnostic Centre-cum-Pathological clinic from MPLADS
funds and handing it over to the NGO Bharat Sevashram
Sangha in Serampore Parliamentary constituency of
West Bengal**

4.1 Shri Akbor Ali Khandoker, MP (LS) addressed a letter dated 27 June, 2002 to Hon'ble Chairman, Committee on MPLADS regarding purchase of Mobile Diagnostic Centre-cum-Pathological clinic to the NGO Bharat Sevashram Sangh in Serampore Parliamentary constituency from MPLADS funds.

4.2 The Hon'ble Member, in his letter, stated as follows:-

“I am eager to hand over a Mobile Diagnostic Centre-cum-Pathological Clinic to the NGO, Bharat Sevashram Sangha with the fund of MPLADS against my MP Quota to provide Medical Services to the villagers of some remote villages of Hooghly District and cater the basic need of facility to the down trodden and poor villagers. The said clinic shall be equipped with Pathological Machine for Blood Chemistry Analysis, ECG M/c. for Cardiac Check-up, Ultra-sound M/c. for whole body imaging specially Gyne, Kidney, Lower abdomen and one Mobile X-ray M/c. All these machines are portable with latest technology, trouble free operated and capable of releasing on the spot reports. All these above noted equipments will be fitted in a specially designed TELCO Vehicle.

It may kindly be noted that a proposal for the said mobile clinic was submitted earlier to the District Magistrate, Hooghly for administrative approval. But as per the Serial No. 23 of Appendix-I under MPLADS Guidelines, Mobile dispensaries can be provided in rural areas to Government Panchayati Institutions. It may kindly be further noted that there is no such infrastructure in Government Panchayati Institutions to take over the charge of such mobile dispensaries. In order to provide medical facilities to the poor villagers of remote areas as aforesaid, I am interested to purchase mobile dispensary van and handover the same to a NGO Bharat Sevashram Sangh. The cost of this van is to be financed out of my MPLAD Fund.

In view of this, I shall be extremely obliged if you kindly treat this as a special case in the interest of common rural people and public interest and permit me to purchase a Mobile Diagnostic Centre-cum-Pathological Clinical Van and to handover the same to a NGO Bharat Sevashram Sangh for providing free of cost medical facilities to the people of the area as aforesaid.”

4.3 In this connection, the item 23 of the Illustrative List of works that can be taken up under MPLADS of the Guidelines envisages as follows:-

“Procurement of hospital equipment like X-Ray machines, ambulances for Government Hospitals and setting up of mobile dispensaries in rural areas by Government Panchayati Institutions. Ambulances can be provided to reputed service organisations like Red Cross, Ramakrishna Mission etc.”

4.4 The Committee on MPLADS, Lok Sabha also in their Seventh Report presented to Lok Sabha on 31 August, 2001 recommended vide Para 9.4 inter alia as follows:-

“The Committee note the proposal of Hon’ble Member, Rajya Sabha for taking permission for purchase of a Mobile Dental Van from MPLADS funds. The Committee while keeping in view the instructions dated 15.10.1999 issued by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation to all District Commissioners/District Magistrates which stipulate that mobile dispensaries cannot be provided to the NGOs in the name of the ambulance or otherwise, reject the proposal of Hon’ble Member for purchase of Mobile Dental Van under MPLADS.”

4.5 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation vide their action taken notes dated 8 October, 2001 stated as follows:-

“As the Committee did not approve the proposal, no further action is required.”

Recommendation

4.6 The Committee note the proposal of Shri Akbor Ali Khandoker, MP (LS) regarding purchase of a Mobile Diagnostic Centre-cum-Pathological clinic to hand it over to the NGO Bharat Sevashram Sangha in Serampore Parliamentary constituency from MPLADS funds and disapprove it as the purchase of Mobile Diagnostic clinic is not creation of durable asset and moreover it involves recurring expenditure, which is against the Guidelines on MPLADS.

Constitution of a panel of reputed credible companies in the field of supplying computers by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

5.1 The Committee on MPLADS in their sitting held on 14 March, 2002 considered the proposal of Hon'ble Chairman regarding constitution of a panel of reputed credible companies in the field of supplying computers by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. and decided as follows:-

“The Committee considered the proposal of Hon'ble Chairman, Committee on MPLADS on the above mentioned subject and decided that the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation should be requested to devise a panel of reputed credible companies having their sales outlets throughout the country in the field of supplying computers and furnish the list of the same to the Committee before sending to the concerned Chief Secretaries and District Magistrates of all the States directing them for adopting these companies for supply of computers under MPLADS. The Ministry should also specify to these companies that they would have to maintain these computers free of cost at least for one year.”

5.2 The Minutes of the sitting were forwarded to the Ministry for taking necessary action thereon.

5.3 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation vide their letter dated 4 April, 2002 stated as follows:-

“The undersigned is directed to refer to the minutes of the Lok Sabha Committee meeting held on 14.3.2002 (Memorandum No. 25) on the above subject and to say that earlier, on receipt of a proposal from the Hon'ble Chairman, Lok Sabha Committee on MPLADS during April, 2001 to finalise a list of suppliers for computers, the matter had been examined in detail and the Hon'ble Chairman was informed by the then Secretary (S&PI) on 20.4.2001 that the Ministry do not have expertise for the work in question and that there were already 2 expert bodies (i) DGS&D and (ii) NICSI, who had finalised contracts with reputed computer manufacturers.....”

Recommendation

5.4 The Committee consider the proposal regarding constitution of a panel of reputed credible companies in the field of supplying computers by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The Committee are of the view that the concerned company would ensure one year guarantee for the computers supplied by it and it should be brought to the notice of all District authorities throughout the country.

**Proposal from Dr. Sahib Singh Verma, Hon'ble Minister of Labour and
Shri Pradeep Rawat, MP (LS) relating to amendment in the
Guidelines on MPLADS for inclusion of purchase of books,
computer, furniture, curriculum based educational software
and other items of infrastructural development in the
Government as well as private libraries**

6.1 LARRDIS (Acquisition Section) have forwarded a copy of the Minutes of their First sitting of Library Committee held on 8 May, 2002 containing a suggestion from Shri Vijay Kumar Khandelwal, MP (LS) that purchase of books for Libraries might be allowed under MPLADS for consideration of the Committee on MPLADS, Lok Sabha.

6.2 LARRDIS (Acquisition Section) in their note dated 12 August, 2002 stated as follows:-

“During the First sitting of Library Committee (2002-2003) held on 8 May, 2002 Shri Vijay Kumar Khandelwal, MP (LS) suggested that purchase of books for Libraries may be allowed under the MPLADS. The Chairman assured the Committee that the matter will be taken up with the Chairman, Committee on MPLADS. A copy of the minutes of the meeting is enclosed for ready reference.

Committee on MPLADS may be requested to place the matter before the Committee for consideration.”

6.3 The Minutes of the First Sitting of the Library Committee stated as under:-

“..... Shri Vijay Kumar Khandelwal drew the attention of the Committee to the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) under which members are allowed to contribute for construction of Library building but purchase of books under the scheme is not allowed. The Chairman assured to take up the matter with the Chairman, MPLADS Committee.....”

6.4 In this regard, Shri Pradeep Rawat, MP (LS) in his letter dated 5 August, 2002 stated as follows:-

“I as a Member of the Parliament attended a seminar of International Parliamentarian Association of Information Technology (IPAIT) held recently from 24th to 26th July, 2002 in Seoul, South Korea specifically to discuss the important aspects of “Digital Divide”. I during my speech brought out the progress made by India in the development and export of world-class softwares and spread of information technology and e-learning in India.

Providing computers to secondary and higher secondary schools through MPLAD Scheme is indeed heartening. This is the step in the right direction and is in keeping with advance of Science and Information Technology. The advantages of providing Computers to secondary schools could be fully exploited if; it is also supplemented with provision of a quality curriculum based educational software.

I am enclosing for your perusal, few relevant excerpts from the book “Business @ the Speed of Thought” written by Mr. Bill Gates, for founder of Microsoft Corporation. These excerpts clearly bring out the importance of educational software for e-learning and information technology, both for students and teachers’ community.

As you are aware that Members of Parliament have been authorised to provide computers only to Government aided secondary and higher secondary schools out of MPLAD Scheme. This leaves a large number of primary schools and non-aided but recognized secondary and higher secondary schools without such facility. Further, the Parliamentarians have no authority to make available any books and curriculum based educational softwares to the schools through MPLAD Scheme which, I consider a great lacuna. Hon’ble HRD Minister Shri Murali Manohar Joshiji has already recommended inclusion of books for the educational institutes from MPLAD Scheme. Today, a number of curriculum based educational software packages are available but the schools on their own lack financial muscle to procure these packages. Provision of educational softwares to the schools will also ensure that the computers are used more for educational purpose rather than administrative work.

You will agree with me, that PCs without necessary educational software will be utilised mainly for administrative works and students/teachers will not be benefited. I am sure, you will solicit your support for inclusion of books and curriculum based educational software for all types of schools in the list of MPLAD Scheme, as and when such a point is raised in the Parliament or in any forum.”

6.5 In this connection, Dr. Sahib Singh Verma, Hon’ble Minister of Labour in his letter dated 2 August, 2002 stated as under:-

“This is regarding coverage of libraries under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS). The Guidelines of the Scheme provide that while computers can be purchased under MPLADS funds for Governmental Educational Institutions, the same facility has not been extended for the government libraries.

You will appreciate that libraries have important role in supplementing efforts on education front. It is indeed strange that purchase of items for libraries has not been included in the Guidelines of the MPLAD Scheme.

It is, therefore, requested that list of illustrated works which can be taken under MPLAD Scheme may be amended so as to include purchase of books, computers, furnitures and other items of infrastructure development in the Government as well as private libraries.”

6.6 The request of Dr. Verma was forwarded to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for obtaining their comments thereon. The latter vide their communication dated 20 August, 2002 has stated as follows:-

“The undersigned is directed to refer to the Lok Sabha Secretariat’s O.M. No. 9/2/100/MPLADSC/2002 dated 9 August, 2002 on the subject mentioned above and to say that (1) guidelines permit construction of libraries for schools belonging to Government/Government aided/Government recognised institutions and public libraries; (2) computers are allowed for Government and Government aided schools/educational institutions; (3) proposal for computers in libraries has already been rejected by the Committee on MPLADS (Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha); and (4) Books and Furniture are items of inventory for which there is specific restriction on their purchase under MPLADS.

6.7 In this connection, the Committee on MPLADS in their Tenth Report vide Para 4.4 presented to Hon'ble Speaker recommended inter alia as follows:-

“The Committee consider the proposal regarding giving ex-post facto approval for purchase of books for distribution in schools and public libraries under MPLADS in Sikkim. The Committee are of the view that the books which were purchased from the MPLADS funds of Hon'ble Member, Shri Bhim Dahal were of eminent authors like Parijat and contended the theme of women's emancipation and social re-awakening. Further, the books were meant to be distributed among the school children. Keeping in view the foregoing, the Committee approve the proposal of Hon'ble Member for giving ex-post facto approval and one time exemption in the case relating to the purchase of books made during the year 1997-98 and 1998-99 amounting to Rs. 20 lakh under MPLAD Scheme in Sikkim. The Committee also feel that it should be treated as a special case and not to be quoted as a precedent in future.”

Recommendation

6.8 The Committee note the proposal of Dr. Sahib Singh Verma, Hon'ble Minister of Labour and Shri Pradeep Rawat, MP (LS) relating to amendment in the Guidelines on MPLADS for inclusion of purchase of books, computer, furniture, curriculum based educational software and other items of infrastructural development in the Government as well as private libraries. The Committee observe that the MPLAD funds are meant for creation of durable assets for locally-felt needs and not for purchase of inventory items. They feel that Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme permit construction of Libraries for Schools belonging to Government/ Government aided/Government recognised institutions and public libraries. The Committee also note that as computers are allowed for Government and Government-aided Schools/educational institutions, accordingly they approve purchase of computers from the MPLADS funds for Government Libraries only. The Committee do not approve purchase of books, furniture and curriculum-based educational software as these items are items of inventory for which there is specific bar on purchase under the MPLAD Scheme.

VII

Proposal of Shri Rupchand Pal, MP (LS) regarding implementation of projects above Rs. 25 lakh for (a) Construction of Lecture Hall-cum-Class Rooms (b) Provision of Computer, Server and other related accessories for the PC Lab (c) Construction of Library Building (d) Construction of Laboratory Building and (e) Construction of Hostel for Hooghly Engineering & Technology College, Pipulpati in Hooghly Parliamentary constituency of Kolkatta

7.1 Shri Rupchand Pal, MP (LS) addressed a letter dated 9 August, 2002 to Hon'ble Chairman, Committee on MPLADS regarding implementation of projects above Rs. 25 lakh for (a) Construction of Lecture Hall-cum-Class Rooms (b) Provision of Computer, Server and other related accessories for the PC Lab (c) Construction of Library Building (d) Construction of Laboratory Building and (e) Construction of Hostel for Hooghly Engineering & Technology under MPLADS in Hooghly Parliamentary constituency of Kolkatta for consideration of the Committee on MPLADS.

7.2 The Hon'ble Member in his letter stated as follows:-

“I have already spoken to you regarding the following:

I want to recommend the sums of money as mentioned below from MPLADS fund for the (a) Construction of Lecture Hall-cum-Class Rooms (b) Provision of Computer, Server and other related accessories for the PC Lab (c) Construction of Library Building (d) Construction of Laboratory Building and (e) Construction of Hostel for Hooghly Engineering & Technology College, Pipulpati P.O. & Distt. Hooghly, West Bengal – 712103 which is being set up in my constituency after necessary approval of the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE)

The Government of West Bengal has provided the land for the purpose

I propose to provide the new Degree Engineering College the following amount against the heads mentioned below.

A.i) Construction of Lecture Hall-cum-Class-room for Hooghly Engineering and Technology College, Pipulpati, P.O. & Distt. Hooghly, W. Bengal-712103 (HETCS)
Rs. 25 Lakh

ii) Construction of Lecture Hall
(Including Electrification, Drinking water,
Sanitation facilities) Rs. 20 lakh

iii) Construction of Class Room Rs. 10 lakh

iv) Construction of Classroom Rs. 2.5 lakh

(Being provided in different installments)

Total = Civil construction (including electrification,
Drinking Water & Sanitation facilities)
On the above heads=

Rs. 57.5 lakh

B. Construction of Laboratory

Rs. 15 lakh

C. i)	Provision of Computer, Server Etc. for PC Lab	Rs. 10 lakh
ii)	-do-	Rs. 10 lakh
iii)	-do-	Rs. 2.5 lakh
	Total	<u>Rs. 22.5 lakh</u>
D.	Construction of Library Building	Rs. 10 lakh

It may be mentioned here that the money is being given in different installments and apparently the Schemes are different although in the same premises under the same institution.

As because the usual ceiling of Rs. 25 lakh for provision to MPLADS for single schemes appears to have been crossed I would seek your kind approval for enabling me to provide the sums as proposed above.

I hope your Committee may kindly consider the request of mine at the earliest and grant necessary approval so that, I can contribute to the process of building up the necessary infrastructure for the first and only Degree and Engineering College which has been set with substantial help and cooperation from the West Bengal State Government and active involvement of very distinguished academicians, social workers and others.”

Recommendation

7.3 The Committee consider the proposal of Hon'ble Member for giving relaxation beyond the limit of Rs. 25 lakh under MPLADS Scheme for (a) Construction of Lecture Hall-cum-Class Rooms (b) Provision of Computer, Server and other related accessories for the PC Lab (c) Construction of Library Building (d) Construction of Laboratory Building and (e) Construction of Hostel for Hooghly Engineering & Technology College, Pipulpati in Hooghly Parliamentary constituency of Kolkatta and approve it.

VIII

Representation from Shri Zora Singh Mann, MP (LS) regarding implementation of project above Rs. 25 lakh for construction of Mata Gujri Public School of Mata Gujri Educational Society Chak Suhele Wala in Ferozpur Parliamentary constituency of Punjab under MPLADS

8.1 Shri Zora Singh Mann, MP (LS) addressed a letter dated 7 August, 2002 to Hon'ble Minister of State for Statistics and Programme Implementation and a copy endorsed to Hon'ble Chairman, Committee on MPLADS regarding implementation of projects above Rs. 25 lakh for construction of Mata Gujri Public School of Mata Gujri Educational Society Chak Suhele Wala in Ferozpur Parliamentary constituency of Punjab under MPLADS.

8.2 The Hon'ble Member in his letter stated as follows:-

“Kindly recollect the meeting I had with you on 6.8.02 in Parliament House Annexe during the MPLADS workshop. As discussed, I propose to give a grant to Mata Gujri Educational Society Chak Suhele Wala, Tehsil-Jalalabad, District-Firozpur who are constructing a School named Mata Gujri Public School. The building which is moving up quite fast requires immense investment. I alongwith Shri Sukdev Singh Dhindsa & Sukhvir Singh Badal, MP (RS) have made contribution from the MPLAD Scheme. The project estimated is Rs. 2.80 crore, approximately. Even the then C.M. Sardar Prakash Singh Badal made substantial contribution towards this end.

Recently Kumari Uma Bharati, Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports visited the site and expressed her good wishes. Due to Guidelines of MPLADS not more than Rs. 25 lakh would not be given to a registered society/trust. The Mata Gujri Educational Society has also spent more than Rs. 25 lakh from MPLAD Scheme.

In view of the above, I would request you kindly give permission to Mata Gujri Educational Society to spent another grant of Rs. 30 lakh from MPLADS from this noble cause.

I am sure that your orders will fulfil the dreams of thousands of students.

I shall be highly grateful to you for this act of kindness.”

Recommendation

8.3 The Committee consider the proposal of Shri Zora Singh Mann, MP(LS) and recommend for giving relaxation beyond the limit of Rs. 25 lakh for construction of Mata Gujri Public School of Mata Gujri Educational Society Chak Suhele Wala in Ferozpur parliamentary constituency of Punjab under the MPLAD Scheme.

IX

Proposal of Shri Balram Singh Yadav, MP (LS) regarding seeking relaxation in the limit of Rs. 25 lakh for construction of a college in the rural area of Bishni under MPLADS in Mainpuri Parliamentary constituency of Uttar Pradesh

9.1 Shri Balram Singh Yadav, MP (LS) addressed a letter dated 29 July, 2002 to Hon'ble Chairman, Committee on MPLADS regarding relaxation of cost ceiling of Rs. 25 lakh for construction of a college under MPLADS in the rural area Bishni in Mainpuri Parliamentary constituency of Uttar Pradesh.

9.2 The Hon'ble Member, in his letter, stated as follows:-

“I am taking initiative for the construction of a college under MPLADS fund from my quota in the rural area Bishni in my constituency. Here I would like to submit that as per the rules laid down in this regard upper limit for carrying out individual works under MPLAD Scheme is only Rupees 25 lakh and the expenditure involved in the construction of this college exceeds the prescribed limit. Hence your goodself is requested to kindly consider this as a special case and release the estimated amount for the project by providing relaxation in the rules. Recommendation letter of District Magistrate, Mainpuri has already been sent to the Director in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India.”

9.3 The request of the Member was forwarded to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for obtaining their comments thereon, the latter in their communication dated 13 August, 2002 have stated as under:-

“The undersigned is directed to refer to the Lok Sabha Secretariat's O.M. No. 9/2/95/MPLADS/2002 dated 2 August, 2002 on the subject mentioned above and to say that the total cost of the Project is Rs. 93.3 lakhs. As per the instructions issued by this Ministry in consultation with the Committee on MPLADS (Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha) vide letter dated 24/04/2002 (copy enclosed for ready reference) the limit of Rs. 25 lakh stipulated in Para 4.1 is to be made applicable to a trust/society as a whole if a particular society/trust has more than one institution or more than one work for that institution, i.e., from MPLADS not more than Rs. 25 lakh for a particular society/trust can be spent. As the request of the Hon'ble MP (LS) exceeds the permissible limit of Rs. 25 lakhs per Trust/Society, the same is not admissible as per the existing provisions of the Guidelines on MPLADS. A copy of the letter, dated 28/07/02 received from the DM, Mainpuri in this regard is also enclosed. Hon'ble MOS (S&PI) has already requested the Chairman of MPLADS Committees for not granting relaxations in the provisions of the Guidelines as this dilutes and sometimes defeats the very purpose of those provisions.”

Recommendation

9.4 **The Committee consider the proposal of Shri Balram Singh Yadav, MP(LS) and approve it by giving relaxation beyond the limit of Rs. 25 lakh for construction of a college in the rural areas of Bishni under MPLADS in Mainpuri parliamentary constituency of Uttar Pradesh.**

Proposal from S/Shri Sis Ram Ola, and Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, MPs (LS) relating to waiving of condition that the benefits of MPLAD Scheme would not be given to a registered society/trust, if the Member who has forwarded the proposal was himself the President/Chairman or Member of the Managing Committee etc., or Trustee of Registered Society/Trust in question.

10.1 S/Shri Sis Ram Ola and Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, MPs (LS) addressed letters dated 26 July and 14 August, 2002 respectively to Hon'ble Chairman, Committee on MPLADS suggesting therein to waive the condition that the benefits of MPLAD Scheme would not be given to a registered society/trust, if the Member who has forwarded the proposal was himself the President/Chairman or Member of the Managing Committee etc., or Trustee of Registered Society/Trust in question.

10.2 Hon'ble Member, Shri Sis Ram Ola, in his letter stated as under:-

“Through this letter I want to draw your kind attention to the letter of Shri V.K. Arora, Director (MPLADS), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation dated 24.4.02 regarding the ceiling of Rs. 25 lakh per work as specified in Para 4.1 of MPLADS Guidelines. I am constrained to write that in the said Para 4.1 certain impractical points have been raised and the decision taken in this regard has been circulated to all the district collectors all over India, stating that Members of Parliament are expected not to suggest works exceeding Rs. 25 lakh cost.

In the enclosed letter Shri V.K. Arora, Director has stated that this matter has been discussed in consultation with the MPLADS Committees of both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and it is clarified that (a) that ceiling of Rs. 25 lakh as stipulated in Para 4.1 will fully apply on one trust/society if a particular society/trust has more than one work to dispose off in that case more than Rs. 25 lakh cannot be spent for a particular society/trust out of MPLADS funds (b) a registered society/trust cannot be the beneficiary under the MPLADS if the Member of Parliament who himself has put forth this proposal is the Chairman or a Member of the Board of Management or Trustee of that registered society/trust.

In this context, I would like to submit that it would be appropriate if I call it impractical, undemocratic and a black law, because this is really a very unfortunate decision. I express my protest to it. The point of regret is that in the previous meeting of the Committee it was unanimously decided that the said point is impractical. But in the minutes which we have received from your Director, there is no mention of the said decision. I would also like to submit as to why the unanimous decision of the Committee is not mentioned in said letter.

These minutes are incomplete as well as impractical. One cannot term it as minutes. This is a one sided action because if any Hon'ble Member is running an organisation smoothly and if that organisation is also showing good results then how it would be improper to provide financial assistance to such organisation. Sir, you have held Hon'ble Members of Parliament irresponsible. But the Sarpanch Pradhan – Panchayat Samiti, member – Panchayat Samiti, Member-Zilla Samiti and other common worker or man at the behest of whom Hon'ble Members give funds under the said scheme is held more responsible while Hon'ble Members are held irresponsible as

compared to them. If there is any shortcoming in the work undertaken than the District Collector and the Government are fully empowered to get it investigated. The concerned officer should ensure that the work is up to the mark or not. But it is not justified to decide unilaterally that financial assistance under MPLADS should not be given to these organisations whose Chairman or Member of Board of Management or Trustee is an Hon'ble Member of Parliament. This is highly objectionable.

In this context, it is my humble request that the said impractical order be withdrawn with immediate effect and the previous Guidelines laid down in this regard may only be continued.”

10.3 Hon'ble Member, Shri Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh in his letter dated 14 August, 2002 stated as follows:-

“I am informed that an Hon'ble Member cannot contribute funds from his MPLADS funds for developmental work in the organisation of which he is a Member, Manager or Chairman. This is a humiliating direction/circular issued by concerned Ministry/ Officer.

You are, therefore, requested that this discriminatory order be withdrawn at your level so that Hon'ble Members can use their MPLADS funds for developmental works in the organisations to which they are related.”

10.4 The Committee on MPLADS in their Tenth Report vide Para 10.6 presented to Hon'ble Speaker on 12 August, 2002 recommended inter alia as follows:-

“The Committee consider the proposal of Dr. Akhtar Hasan Rizvi, and Shri Vijay Darda, MPs (RS) regarding clarification sought by them on limit of Rs. 25 lakh per work under MPLADS. The Committee recommend to allow as follows:-

- (1) the cost limit of Rs. 25 lakh stipulated in Para 4.1 of the Guidelines of MPLADS is to be made applicable to each work/project of an institution under the Scheme;
- (2) the works relating to the genuine cases of trusts/societies would be considered by the Committee after having got them verified from the Ministry/State Governments under the MPLAD Scheme;
- (3) the benefits of MPLAD Scheme would not be given to a registered society/trust, if the Member who has forwarded such proposal was the President/Chairman or member of the Managing Committee etc., or trustee of the registered society/trust in question; and
- (4) each case costing more than Rs. 25 lakh would be examined by the Committee on MPLADS.”

10.5 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in their reply dated 20 August, 2002 have stated as follows:-

“The undersigned is directed to refer to the Lok Sabha Secretariat's O.M. No. 9/2/101/MPLADSC/2002 dated 12 August, 2002 on the above mentioned subject and to say that the instructions relating to (1) the limit of Rs. 25 lakh stipulated in Para 4.1 of the Guidelines on MPLADS is to be made applicable to a trust/society as a whole; and (2) the benefit of the MPLAD Scheme should not be given to a registered society/trust if the MP giving the proposal is himself/herself holding the post of Chairman/President/Member of the Managing Committee, Trustee etc., of the registered society/trust in question, were issued by this Ministry after obtaining the recommendations of the two Committees on MPLADS. Copy of the relevant extracts

of the Minutes of Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha Committee on MPLADS is enclosed. (See Annexure).”

10.6 The Committee on MPLADS also in their Tenth Report vide Para 44.4 presented to Hon’ble Speaker, Lok Sabha on 12 August, 2002 recommended inter alia as follows:-

“The Committee note the aforesaid proposal of Shri Santosh Mohan Dev, MP (LS) and recommend to waive the condition that the benefits of MPLAD Scheme would not be given to a registered society/trust, if the Member who has forwarded the proposal was himself the President/Chairman or Member of the Managing Committee etc., or trustee of the Registered Society/Trust in question in case of S/Shri Santosh Mohan Dev, MP (LS) and Karnendu Bhattacharjee, MP (RS) as a special case, keeping in view the difficulties faced by them in implementation of the Scheme in the North-East Region.”

Recommendation

10.7 The Committee note the proposal of S/Shri Sis Ram Ola and Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, MPs (LS) and recommend to waive the following three conditions which were incorporated in Para 10.6 of their Tenth Report (13th Lok Sabha) for execution of works under the MPLAD Scheme:-

- “(1) the cost limit of Rs. 25 lakh stipulated in Para 4.1 of the Guidelines of MPLADS is to be made applicable to each work/project of an institution under the Scheme;**
- (2) the works relating to the genuine cases of trusts/societies would be considered by the Committee after having got them verified from the Ministry/State Governments under the MPLAD Scheme; and**
- (3) the benefits of MPLAD Scheme would not be given to a registered society/trust, if the Member who has forwarded such proposal was the President/Chairman or member of the Managing Committee etc., or trustee of the registered society/trust in question.”**

The Committee also recommend that the registered society/trust to which an Hon’ble Member of Parliament desires to contribute from his quota of MPLADS funds should have good credentials, sound track records and legal base.

XI

Proposal from Shri E. Ahamed, MP (LS) regarding implementation of project costing Rs. 35 lakh – for “Pavanna – Podivil Kadavu” Tookupalam at Oorngatiri Panchayat, Areacode Block, Malappuram District, Kerala under MPLAD Scheme

11.1 Shri E. Ahamed, MP (LS) addressed a letter dated 22 August, 2002 to Hon’ble Speaker, Lok Sabha regarding implementation of project costing Rs. 35 lakh – for “Pavanna – Podivil Kadavu” Tookupalam at Oorngatiri Panchayat, Areacode Block, Malappuram District, Kerala under MPLAD Scheme for consideration of the Committee on MPLADS.

11.2 Hon’ble Member in his letter stated as follows:-

“Hope you will find this in the best of health and cheers.

I have sanctioned Rs. 24 lakh for the work mentioned above in 1999-2000 and Rs. 11 lakh during 2002-2003 as the total cost of the work is Rs. 35 lakh. But the work has not yet started because as per the Guidelines a work costing more than Rs. 25 lakh needed the sanction from Lok Sabha. I shall be grateful for giving sanction for this work under my MPLAD Scheme.”

Recommendation

11.3 The Committee consider the proposal of Shri E. Ahamed, MP (LS) for giving relaxation beyond the limit of Rs. 25 lakh for implementation of project costing Rs. 35 lakh – for “Pavanna – Podivil Kadavu” Tookupalam at Oorngatiri Panchayat, Areacode Block, Malappuram District, Kerala under MPLAD Scheme and approve the same.

XII

Proposal of Prof. A.K. Premajam, MP (LS) for relaxation in the limit of Rs. 25 lakh for construction of railway under-bridge at Mukkali on Calicut – Mangalore railway line in Badagore Parliamentary constituency of Kerala under MPLADS

12.1 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation addressed a letter dated 2 September, 2002 to Lok Sabha Secretariat enclosing therewith a copy of letter dated 26 June, 2002 from Prof. A.K. Premajam, MP (LS) regarding construction of a railway under-bridge at Mukkali Km. 719/7-8 on Calicut – Mangalore railway line in Badagore Parliamentary constituency of Kerala under MPLADS.

12.2 The Hon'ble Member, in his letter stated as follows:-

“I have proposed the construction of a railway under bridge at Mukkali Km 719/7-8 on Calicut-Mangalore Railway line in my constituency Badagara. Vide reference 2nd, the Railway authorities has informed that an under bridge for light vehicular traffic can be provided at the location at an approximate cost of Rs. 27.5 lakh. This would benefit the people of three Grame Panchayats and the Eramala Grama Panchayat has agreed to bear the annual maintenance cost of the bridge if constructed under MPLADS.

However, as per that office letter cited 3rd, it has been ordered that work exceeding Rs. 25 lakh required the approval of two Committees on MPLADS, Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha.

I request that steps may be taken to obtain necessary clearance from the Parliamentary Committee for the implementation of the work at the earliest.”

12.3 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in their communication dated 2 September, 2002 stated as under:-

“The undersigned is directed to forward herewith a copy of letter dated 26.6.2002 received from Prof. A.K. Premajam, MP (LS) alongwith copies of letters dated 20.5.2002 and 20.6.2002 received from the District Collector, Kozhikode on the above subject and to say that the Railway authorities have confirmed about the feasibility of construction of an underbridge for light vehicle and the estimated approximate cost of work as Rs. 27.50 lakh.

The MP (LS) has stated that the bridge would be beneficial for the people of three Gram Panchayats and the Eramala Gram Panchayat has agreed to bear the annual maintenance cost of the bridge, if constructed under MPLADS. Since, the cost of the works is exceeding the prescribed limit of Rs. 25 lakh, the MP (LS) has requested for relaxation in the ceiling for this project.

The Guidelines stipulate that the cost of an individual work should not normally exceed Rs. 25 lakh. It is, therefore, requested that the matter may please be placed before the Committee on MPLADS, Lok Sabha for consideration and recommendation.”

Recommendation

12.4 The Committee consider the proposal of Hon'ble Member for giving relaxation beyond the limit of Rs. 25 lakh for construction of railway under-bridge at Mukkali Km. 719/7-8 on Calicut – Mangalore railway line in Badagore Parliamentary constituency of Kerala under MPLADS and approve it.

XIII

Revised list of works to be undertaken by HUDCO and NBCC in the earthquake affected areas of Kutch and Rajkot under the MPLADS in Gujarat.

13.1 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation addressed a letter dated 20 August, 2002 to Lok Sabha Secretariat enclosing therewith a copy of revised list of works to be undertaken in the earthquake affected areas of Kutch and Rajkot districts in Gujarat under MPLADS forwarded to them by Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority (GSDMA) (See Annexure) for consideration of the Sub-Committee of Committee on MPLADS, Lok Sabha as some works have already been selected by some other agencies and therefore, clear sites are not available for them.

13.2 In this connection, the Sub-Committee of Committee on MPLADS in their meeting held on 9 August, 2002 decided as follows:-

“.....Thereafter, the officials of various organisations (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Lok Sabha Secretariat and Government of Gujarat) met and after due deliberation, it was finalised that GSDMA, HUDCO and NBCC would give their final proposals to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and then the latter after having vetted it would furnish the same to the Lok Sabha Secretariat for placing it before the Committee on MPLADS for their consideration at the earliest.”

13.3 The Sub-Committee during their deliberation also supported the decision of the Gujarat Government as informed by their representative that the local authorities i.e., the concerned District Magistrate/Collector of Kutch and Rajkot districts have been delegated the power to authorise the NGOs to shift the site of works while executing projects in the earthquake affected areas. The Sub-Committee decided that this practice should be continued for timely implementation of relief works in the earthquake affected areas.

13.4 The Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority (GSDMA) in their letter dated 9 August, 2002 stated as follows:-

“With reference to the discussions held in the Sub-Committee of the Committee on MPLADS today at New Delhi, we take this opportunity of sending the revised proposals for consideration of the Committee about the works to be undertaken in the earthquake affected areas of the Kutch and Rajkot districts in Gujarat under the MPLADS.

We earnestly request you for the early consideration of the same.”

13.5 Thereafter, the matter was referred to the Ministry for obtaining concurrence of the construction agencies i.e., HUDCO and NBCC on the revised list of works as proposed by GSDMA.

13.6 The Ministry in their communication dated 3 and 4 September, 2002 respectively stated that the matter was taken up with the HUDCO and the NBCC. The HUDCO has given concurrence to the revised proposal forwarded by GSDMA in respect of the works allotted to them and confirmed that the cost of the above projects was within the funds deposited with HUDCO. The NBCC has also given concurrence on the revised proposal and confirmed that the new locations of sites are available with Government of Gujarat and the NBCC did not anticipate any increase in the cost intimated earlier for each type of building works.

Recommendation

13.7 The Committee note the proposal of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation regarding revised list of works to be taken up at different places in the earthquake affected areas of Kutch and Rajkot districts of Gujarat including school rooms, dispensaries, public health centres, community halls, social welfare centres and veterinary hospitals as proposed by Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority (GSDMA) for construction by HUDCO and NBCC. The Committee also note the decision of the Gujarat Government for allowing the local authorities, i.e. the concerned District Magistrate/Collector of Kutch and Rajkot districts to authorise the NGOs/HUDCO/NBCC to shift the location/site of works in accordance with the exigency and requirement, while executing projects in the earthquake affected areas under MPLADS. The Committee approve both the aforesaid proposals.

XIV

Proposal for giving financial assistance of Rs. 50 lakh for medical and Rs. 25 lakh for educational purposes for construction of building of Shri Jain Medical and Educational Trust, Bhuj – Kutch out of the funds collected from the Members of Parliament, Lok Sabha under MPLADS for earthquake affected areas of Gujarat

14.1 Shri Jain Medical and Educational Trust addressed a letter dated 12 August, 2002 to Lok Sabha Secretariat regarding proposal for giving financial assistance of Rs. 50 lakh for medical and Rs. 25 lakh for educational purposes for construction of building of Shri Jain Medical and Educational Trust, Bhuj – Kutch out of the funds collected from the Members of Parliament, Lok Sabha under MPLADS for earthquake affected areas of Gujarat.

14.2 Shri Jain Medical and Educational Trust in their letter stated as follows:-

“Referring to the above I would like to request you to refer to letter No. H/DD/Lok Sabha/Guj./2002 dated 9th inst. addressed to your goodself and copy to me by Mr. Safaya of HUDCO.

On having received telephone from Mr. Safaya on 9th insisting me to allow him to start construction work at our proposed hospital at Bhuj. I had to inform him about, the cost of construction by HUDCO being very high than that of here, hence we were unable to accept his proposal. Immediately I sent a telegram to Hon’ble M.P., Shri P.S. Gadhvi at New Delhi and copy to HUDCO. Copy of that telegram is also sent herewith for your perusal.

As per our belief funds accumulated as MPLADS, are to be utilised for the area and institutions suffered of calamities. Hence each and every penni of the fund should be utilised very carefully.

Please note where the cost of construction comes only upto Rs. 325 to 350 per sq. ft. And that too, as per the rules and regulations framed up by the development authority of Kutch, why one should spend much more for the same?

I hope your good self and the honourable Chairperson of MPLADS would realise the fact and would manage to divert the funds allotted for our institution to the Distt. Collector Kutch – Bhuj, so as to enable us to carry out procedure to ask for tenders etc.

Thanking you and soliciting early reply.”

14.3 The matter was referred to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for obtaining their comments and the latter in their communication dated 3 September, 2002 stated as under:-

“The undersigned is directed to refer to the Lok Sabha Secretariat O.M. No. 9/2/107/MPLADSC/2002 dated 26th August, 2002 on the above subject and to say that the contribution made by the MPs of Lok Sabha is being utilised on the recommendation of the Lok Sabha Committee on MPLADS, who has selected HUDCO and NBCC for reconstruction work. The Committee has selected certain works which have been assigned to NBCC/HUDCO. Shri Jain Medical and Educational Trust does not want reconstruction work through HUDCO on the plea that their construction cost is very high. Instead they want this work to be got done by the DC by following the State

established procedure. It is for the Committee to take a view on the request made by the beneficiary organisation.”

Recommendation

14.4 The Committee note the proposal of Shri Jain Medical and Educational Trust, Bhuj – Kutch for allowing it to have the construction of building of the Trust executed by the District Collector, Kutch – Bhuj instead of HUDCO under the MPLADS and approve the proposal.

Proposal from Prof. Rita Verma, Hon'ble Minister of State for Human Resource Development regarding amendment in the Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme to facilitate contribution by Members of Parliament to the NGOs/ implementing agencies for setting up a modern kitchen for the efficient implementation of Mid Day Meal Scheme

15.1 Prof. Rita Verma, Hon'ble Minister of State for Human Resource Development addressed a letter dated 20 August, 2002 to Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha regarding suggesting an amendment in the Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme to facilitate contribution by Members of Parliament to the NGOs/implementing agencies for setting up a modern kitchen for the efficient implementation of Mid Day Meal Scheme.

15.2 The Hon'ble Minister in her letter stated as follows:-

“As you are aware, a National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (popularly called as Mid Day Meal Scheme) is being implemented since August, 1995. The programme aims to cover all students of Class I to V studying in Government, local bodies and Government aided schools with the objective to give a boost to universalisation of Primary Education by increasing enrolment and simultaneously impacting on nutritional status of children in primary classes.

The programme is implemented through local bodies and free of cost foodgrains @ 100 gram per child is supplied by FCI. The local bodies are responsible for serving cooked/pre-cooked food with caloric value equivalent to 100 gms. of wheat/rice. The cost of conversion of foodgrains into cooked meals is met by the State Government/ implementing agencies.

Hon'ble Supreme Court while adjudicating a PIL on starvation deaths in Orissa have inter-alia directed in its order dated 28 November, 2001 that “State governments providing dry ration instead of cooked meals must within three months start providing cooked meals in all government and government aided primary schools in half the districts of the State and must within a further period of three months extend the provision of cooked meals to the remaining parts of the State.”

In order to assess the steps taken by the states to implement the apex court's order, a meeting was convened on 16th January, 2002 when states by and large sought additional financial assistance from the Government of India towards conversion cost, kitchen shed and wages for the kitchen staff for implementing the judgment. States like Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra and NER also sought higher transportation cost. The basic problem cited by the states is the availability of meagre resources available with them.

I had an occasion to visit ISKCON in Bangalore and found that this NGO is providing meals to about 6,000 children in the rural schools of Bangalore district. One outstanding and impressive feature of this programme was the “modern kitchen in ISKCON” where food is prepared, packed in specially designed containers and transported through buses to the schools without any human physical touch. The whole process is mechanical and functioning very efficiently. I feel this needs to be replicated in other parts of the country also.

While foodgrains are being provided by the Government of India alongwith specified transportation costs and local bodies are responsible for serving cooked/pre-cooked food, it is imperative to involve the NGOs in a big way for widening the coverage of the programme. However, NGOs face difficulties in managing the kind of resources required for putting in place a mechanised kitchen on the lines of ISKCON. This problem could be overcome to a great extent if Hon'ble Members of Parliament are allowed to contribute money for the above

said purpose from the MPLAD Scheme. Such an enabling provision would make available the required finances to the NGOs which would enable them to involve themselves actively in making available the cooked meals to the poor and needy children of schools in urban/rural areas.

I shall be grateful if you could consider effecting suitable modifications in the existing Guidelines of MPLAD Scheme to facilitate contributions by Members of Parliament to the NGOs/Implementing agencies for setting up a modern kitchen for the efficient implementation of Mid Day Meal Scheme.”

15.3 The proposal of Hon’ble Minister of State was forwarded to Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for obtaining their comments thereon. The latter in their communication dated 18 September, 2002 have stated as under:-

“The undersigned is directed to refer to the Lok Sabha Secretariat’s O.M. No. 9/2/108/MPLADSC/2002 dated 27 August, 2002 on the subject mentioned above and to say that:-

- (1) The basic objective of the MPLAD Scheme is to create durable assets for use of the general public at large; and
- (2) Setting up of Modern Kitchen would basically involve purchase of inventory items which is not permitted under the Guidelines on MPLADS due to specific restriction on purchase of inventory/stock item of any type.”

Recommendation

15.4 The Committee note the proposal of Prof. Rita Verma, Hon’ble Minister of State for Human Resource Development for amendment in the Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme to facilitate contribution by Members of Parliament to the NGOs/implementing agencies for setting up modern kitchens for enabling them to involve themselves actively in making available the cooked meals to poor and needy children of schools in urban/rural areas for efficient implementation of the Mid Day Meal Scheme. The Committee note that setting up of modern kitchens would basically involve purchase of inventory items which was not permitted under the Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme and they do not approve the proposal. They observe that basically the MPLADS funds are meant for construction purposes and less for purchasing purposes.

XVI

Suggestion from Prof. R.R. Pramanik, MP (LS) for substituting “Beneficiary Organisation” by “Beneficiary Organisation or/and Beneficiary Committee” in the Guidelines on MPLADS

16.1 Prof. R.R. Pramanik, MP (LS) forwarded a letter dated 14 March, 2002 to Hon’ble Chairman, Committee on MPLADS regarding amendment in the Guidelines on MPLADS.

16.2 The Hon’ble Member, in his letter, stated as follows:-

“I want to make an amendment in the MPLADS Guidelines as below:-

Please write – “Beneficiary Organisation or/and Beneficiary Committee” for “Beneficiary Organisation” wherever it is used in the said Guidelines.”

16.3 The proposal was referred to the Ministry for obtaining their comments and the latter in their communication dated 20 March, 2002 stated as follows:-

“The undersigned is directed to refer to the O.M. No. 9/2/44/ MPLADSC/2002 dated 18 March, 2002 on the above subject and to say that the word “beneficiary organisation” appearing in the Guidelines refers to registered society/trust in whose favour a work is taken up under MPLADS and who are eligible for benefits under MPLADS. On the basis of specific recommendation of the two Committees on MPLADS, the Government had taken a conscious decision to bring Registered Societies and Trusts only, under the purview of MPLADS.

The existing words “beneficiary organisation” appearing in the Guidelines are adequate and do not require addition of “beneficiary committees” as their nature may be different from that of a registered society/trust permitted under the Guidelines.”

16.4 Thereafter, the Committee on MPLADS in their sitting held on 21 March, 2002 considered the suggestion from Prof. R.R. Pramanik, MP (LS) for substituting “Beneficiary Organisation” by “Beneficiary Organisation or/and Beneficiary Committee” in the Guidelines on MPLADS and decided as follows:-

“The Committee deliberated over the aforesaid proposal of Prof. R.R. Pramanik, MP (LS) and while disapproving it agreed with the view of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation that the existing words “beneficiary organisation” appearing in the Guidelines are adequate and do not require addition of “beneficiary committees” as their nature may be different from that of a registered society/trust permitted under the Guidelines.”

16.5 The aforesaid decision of the Committee vide this Secretariat’s letter dated 27 March, 2002 was forwarded to Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for taking necessary action thereon. The Ministry vide their Action Taken Notes dated 23 May, 2002 stated as follows in this regard:-

“No further action is required as the Lok Sabha Committee has agreed with the views of this Ministry that there was no need to add the words “beneficiary committee” alongwith the words “beneficiary organisation” appearing in the guidelines.”

16.6 However, on the basis of request of Prof. R.R. Pramanik, MP (LS), the Committee on MPLADS, in their sitting held on 31 July, 2002 while adopting their Draft Report decided as follows:-

“At the outset, the Committee considered the Draft Report - ‘Proposals to amend Guidelines on MPLADS’ and adopted the same minus Chapter 34 relating to the suggestion from Prof. R.R. Pramanik, MP (LS) for substituting “Beneficiary Organistion” by “Beneficiary Organisation or/and Beneficiary Committee” in the Guidelines on MPLADS, which would be taken up for reconsideration during the next sitting of the Committee.”

Recommendation

16.7 The Committee consider the proposal of Prof. R.R. Pramanik, MP (LS) for substituting “Beneficiary Organisation” by “Beneficiary Organisation or/and Beneficiary Committee” and approve it as the absence of the words, “Beneficiary Committee” in the Guidelines, is creating problems in the execution of local development works under the MPLAD Scheme in West Bengal in general and in the Hon’ble Member’s parliamentary constituency in particular.

Proposal from Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, MP (LS) regarding (a) release of MPLADS funds to the Managing Committee of the Schools and Colleges (b) release of MPLADS funds to Primary Education Development Board, Malda District (a Non-Governmental Organisation) and (c) whether MPLADS funds can be released jointly with Government of India support for solar energy projects in Scheduled Caste villages

17.1 Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, MP (LS) addressed a letter dated 26 September, 2002 to Hon'ble Chairman, Committee on MPLADS regarding (a) release of MPLADS funds to the Managing Committee of the Schools and Colleges (b) release of MPLADS funds to Primary Education Development Board, Malda District (a Non-Governmental Organisation) and (c) whether MPLADS funds can be released jointly with the Government of India support for solar energy projects in Scheduled Caste villages for consideration of the Committee on MPLADS.

17.2 The Hon'ble Member, in his letter, stated as follows:-

“In the proposed meeting of October 1, 2002, I request the following for your information to place in the agenda and Government's reply in this regard:-

1. Whether the MPLAD Guideline to release fund to the School and College Managing Committees of recognised institution of the State Government where there is no litigation, have been issued to every Collector so that MPs can avail the opportunity to release room construction grant to the Managing Committee of the Schools and Colleges.
2. I have received a Memorandum from (1) Primary Education Development Board, Malda District (a Non-Governmental Organisation) details of which is enclosed (not enclosed); whether we can send any financial grant to this Board?
3. For solar energy support to Scheduled Caste villages MPLAD fund jointly with Government of India support can be worked out in the sector of non-conventional energy.”

17.3 The matter was referred to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for their comments and the latter in their communication dated 30 September, 2002 have stated as under:-

“The undersigned is directed to refer to Lok Sabha Secretariat O.M. No. 9/2/125/MPLADSC/2002 dated 27.9.2002 on the above subject and to say that the Lok Sabha Secretariat has forwarded a copy of the letter from Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, MP (LS) for urgent comments. The case is proposed to be placed in the meeting of the Lok Sabha Committee on 1st October, 2002. The points raised by Shri Dasmunsi are clarified as under:-

i) **Release of fund directly to the School Managing Committees**

Reputed NGOs, including managing Committees of educational institutions, can be the implementing agencies for the works under the Scheme, if the District Head considers them as capable of executing the works satisfactorily.

ii) **Financial grant to Primary Education Development Board an NGO**

The details of the NGO stated to have been enclosed, have not been received. However, MPLADS benefit can be given to those registered societies/trusts which fulfil the conditions laid down in our Circular No. C/56/2002-MPLADS dated 23.1.2002.

iii) **Use of MPLADS funds jointly with GOI support for solar energy support to SC villages**

The Guidelines permit construction of common gobar gas plants, non-conventional energy systems/devices for community use and related activities. Sharing of MPLAD funds can also be done for works which form a part of Central/State programmes/schemes, if such works are otherwise permissible under the Guidelines subject to the conditions stipulated in Para 2.3. There is a further restriction on creation of assets for individual benefits.”

Recommendation

17.4 The Committee consider the proposals of Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, MP (LS) and recommend as follows:-

- (i) **The Reputed NGOs, including Managing Committees of the educational institutions, can be the implementing agencies for the works under the Scheme, if the District Head considers them as capable of executing the works satisfactorily.**

The representative of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation during the deliberation informed the Committee that instructions would be issued to all DCs/DMs very soon regarding the decision.

- (ii) **As far as the use of MPLADS funds jointly with Government of India support in the sector of non-conventional energy for solar energy projects in Scheduled Caste villages was concerned, the Committee desired that the request of the Hon’ble Member for a specific case might come first before them for their consideration.**

Proposal from Shri Vijay Goel, Hon'ble Minister of State for Statistics and Programme Implementation regarding purchase of two mobile medical vans for Maharaja Agarsen Hospital, Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi under MPLADS for the benefit of residents of Chandni Chowk Parliamentary constituency of Delhi

18.1 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation have addressed a letter dated 11 November, 2002 to the Lok Sabha Secretariat enclosing herewith a copy of letter dated 16 October, 2002 received from Municipal Corporation of Delhi containing the proposal of Shri Vijay Goel, Hon'ble Minister of State for Statistics and Programme Implementation regarding purchase of two mobile medical vans for Maharaja Agarsen Hospital, Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi under MPLADS for the benefit of residents of Chandni Chowk Parliamentary constituency of Delhi.

18.2 The Hon'ble Minister, in his letter dated 26 July, 2002 has stated as follows:

“I have decided to release funds out of my MPLADS for purchase of two mobile medical vans for the benefit of residents of my Parliamentary constituency. The vans would be attached to a major hospital and cater to the needs of people.

Please contact M/s. Eicher Limited, or any other automobile manufacturing concern and obtain quotations so as to purchase the vans at the earliest. I hereby sanctioned 12.0 lakh (twelve lakhs) for this purpose.”

18.3 In this connection, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi in their letter dated 16 October, 2002 have stated as under:-

“Your kind attention is invited to enclosed copy of letter dated 26.7.02 from Shri Vijay Goel, Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office, regarding release of funds out of MPLADS for purchase of two mobile medical vans for the benefit of the residents of his Parliamentary constituency i.e., Chandni Chowk, Delhi, through Maharaj Agarsen Hospital, Punjabi Bagh. In this connection, it is requested that a suitable clarification may be given as to:-

- (i) Whether purchase of mobile medical vans is allowed under MPLADS.
- (ii) And if so, can mobile medical van be attached to Maharaj Agarsen Hospital, Punjabi Bagh, being situated outside Parliamentary constituency of Hon'ble Minister.

Above clarification may please be intimated at an early date, so that Hon'ble Minister is informed accordingly.”

18.4 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in their communication dated 11 November, 2002 stated as under:-

“The undersigned is directed to forward herewith a copy of the letter No. D/2056/EE(P)/IV dated 16 October, 2002 received from Municipal Corporation of Delhi containing the proposal of Shri Vijay Goel, Hon'ble MOS (S&PI) on the subject mentioned above and to say that Shri Vijay Goel, MOS (S&PI), representing Chandni Chowk Parliamentary constituency of Delhi, has recommended purchase of two mobile

medical vans at a cost of Rs. 12 lakh, for the benefit of his constituents. The vans are proposed to be given to Maharaj Agrasen Hospital, Punjabi Bagh, Delhi, a Private Hospital, not falling in the constituency of the Hon'ble Minister.

The Guidelines on MPLADS permit:-

- (a) purchase of ambulance for Government Hospital and certain reputed service organisations who fulfil the conditions laid down including providing public service in health sector at least for 3 years and non-profit operation etc.,
- (b) purchase of mobile dispensaries in rural areas only by Government Panchayat Raj institutions;
- (c) a Lok Sabha MP to recommend works in his constituency only.

The matter may be placed before the Committee on MPLADS, Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha for considering relaxation to the above conditions.”

Recommendation

18.5 The Committee consider the proposal of Shri Vijay Goel, Hon'ble MOS(SP&I) regarding purchase of mobile medical vans for Maharaj Agrasen Hospital, Punjabi Bagh under MPLADS for the benefit of residents of Chandni Chowk Parliamentary constituency of Delhi and approve it.

Proposal from Shri Vijay Goel, Hon'ble Minister of State for Statistics and Programme Implementation regarding permission for purchase of five battery operated open buses costing Rs. 6-8 lakh each for Heritage City of Chandni Chowk

19.1 Shri Vijay Goel, Hon'ble Minister of State for Statistics and Programme Implementation addressed a letter dated 22 November, 2002 to Hon'ble Chairman, Committee on MPLADS regarding permission for purchase of five battery operated open buses for Heritage City of Chandni Chowk as a replacement of thousands of rickshaws in the area under MPLAD Scheme for consideration of the Committee on MPLADS.

19.2 In his letter, the Hon'ble Minister stated as follows:-

“As you are kindly aware that my constituency, Chandni Chowk is a Heritage City of Delhi. The area is visited by a large number of foreign and domestic tourists for seeing places like hundreds of Havelies of Chandni Chowk, Red Fort, Jama Masjid, Sis-Ganj Gurudwara, Gouri Shankar Mandir etc. The area, in fact, truly represents the secular character of our nation as all religious places are on one road at Chandni Chowk.

You are also aware that the roads and the markets in the area are always over crowded due to visitors and innumerable auto and cycle-rickshaws plying in the area and often the roads are jam-packed. The traffic moves at snails pace which gives bad impression to the foreign tourists and creates problems for free movement of children and aged people.

In order to stop rickshaws, a meeting was held in the Prime Minister's Office in which CM, Delhi and Lt. Governor, Delhi also participated to stop this rickshaw menace. You will agree with me that by stopping these thousands of rickshaws, we have to provide an alternate transport.

You would kindly appreciate that as MP representing the Chandni Chowk constituency, it becomes my duty to try to solve this problem. In order to streamline the traffic and remove the various bottlenecks coming in the way of movement of the people, I propose to purchase five mobile, battery operated buses/vans like the ones being run in the Pragati Maidan during the Trade Fairs, out of my MPLADS funds. Each bus may cost about Rs. 6-8 lakhs.

These buses/vans would be handed over to the Delhi Government for or any other Government agency for the purpose of operations and maintenance.

Since this proposal is not covered as per the existing Guidelines on MPLADS, in view of the heritage character of the area and need for smooth flow of traffic, I shall be extremely happy if you treat this as a special case and recommend for purchase of these five buses which will be of great relief to the people of the area.

I hope you would kindly give your early recommendation to the proposal in the larger interest of national integration and historical importance of the area, which is represented by all communities.”

19.3 In this regard, the Committee on MPLADS in their Seventh Report on a similar proposal vide Para 1.5 recommended inter alia as follows:-

“The Committee note the proposal of Hon’ble Member for taking permission to purchase mobile buses/vans under MPLADS and disapprove it as it is against the Guidelines on MPLADS. The Committee are of the view that the purchase of mobile buses/vans under MPLADS might create problem of maintenance and recurring expenditure.”

Recommendation

19.4. The Committee consider the proposal of Hon’ble MOS (S&PI) for purchase of five battery operated open buses for Heritage City of Chandni Chowk and approve it on the condition that the State Government or any other Government agency to whom the buses would be handed over to bear the maintenance and recurring expenditure.

Suggestion to include purchase of generators and refrigerators for Government Hospitals (Public Utility Items for Government Hospitals) under MPLADS

20.1 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation addressed a communication dated 13 November, 2002 regarding purchase of generators and refrigerators for Government Hospitals (Public Utility Items for Government Hospitals) under MPLADS for consideration of the Committee on MPLADS.

20.2 The Ministry, in their communication dated 13 November, 2002 have stated as follows:-

“As per provision contained at Item 23 under Appendix-I on the Guidelines, purchase of medical equipment for Government Hospitals is already allowed under MPLADS. With a view to expand the scope of allowing items of public utility for Government Hospitals, this Ministry requested the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to suggest such specific items of public utility as may be essential for Government Hospitals. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has suggested items like (1) Autoclave (2) Refrigerator (3) Generator (4) Basic equipments for resuscitation (5) Operation Theatre equipments like anaesthesia machine, suction apparatus, OT Table, OT lights (6) Semi auto-analyser and (7) Radiant warmer to be included under MPLADS.

All the items suggested by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare except refrigerators and generators are already covered by the generic entry for medical equipments at Sl. No. 23 of Illustrative List of works permissible under the Scheme. To reflect these medical equipment in the Illustrative List is not considered necessary.

The Committee on MPLADS, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha have already recommended for allowing purchase of storage refrigerators for blood banks of Government Hospitals.

It is requested that the proposal to allow purchase of generators and refrigerators for Government Hospitals may be placed before the Committee on MPLADS, Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha for consideration.”

20.3 In this regard, the Item 23 of Illustrative List of works permissible under the Guidelines on MPLADS envisages as follows:-

“Procurement of hospital equipment like X-Ray machines, ambulances for Government Hospitals and setting up of mobile dispensaries in rural areas by Government Panchayati Institutions. Ambulances can be provided to reputed service organisations like Red Cross, Ramakrishna Mission etc.”

Recommendation

20.4 The Committee note the proposal of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for inclusion of purchase of generators and refrigerators for Government Hospitals (Public Utility Items for Government Hospitals) and approve it on the condition that the hospitals must be in a position to bear the maintenance and other expenses on them.

**Proposal from Shri Somnath Chatterjee, MP (LS) regarding construction of a
Jasara bridge at the cost of Rs. 39 lakh under Singhee Gram Panchayat
of Bolpur Panchayat Samiti in Bolpur Parliamentary constituency
of West Bengal**

21.1 Shri Somnath Chatterjee, MP (LS) addressed a letter dated 24 November, 2002 to Hon'ble Chairman, Committee on MPLADS regarding construction of a Jasara bridge at a cost of Rs. 39 lakh under Singhee Gram Panchayat of Bolpur Panchayat Samiti in Bolpur Parliamentary constituency of West Bengal.

21.2 The Hon'ble Member in his letter stated as follows:-

“I have recommended construction of a very important Bridge under Singhee Gram Panchayat of Bolpur Panchayat Samity, within my constituency, out of MPLADS funds for the years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003. In this connection, a communication dated 1 October, 2002 was sent by the District Magistrate of Birbhum in West Bengal to the Director, MPLADS, Government of India, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Sardar Patel Bhawan, New Delhi – 110 001. In reply to the letter, Shri S.K. Malhotra, Under Secretary, asked for certain information. (Copies enclosed)

The Bridge will be an extremely important one. The old bridge was almost completely destroyed by the floods of the 2000 and a large number of people are facing enormous hardship. We have got the estimates made by the competent official sources, about which all information has already been forwarded to the concerned office by the office of the District Magistrate.

In the circumstances, may I earnestly request you to please issue the necessary sanction, so that work of construction of Jasara Bridge in my constituency can be taken up at the earliest opportunity.”

21.3 The matter was referred to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for obtaining their factual comments thereon. The Ministry in their O.M. dated 2 December, 2002 have stated as under:-

“The undersigned is directed to refer to Lok Sabha Secretariat O.M. No. 9/2/139/MPLADSC/2002 dated 27 November, 2002 on the above subject and to say that this Ministry had sent a letter dated 16.10.2002 to DM, Birbhum requesting him to clarify whether the estimate for the project has been prepared by the implementing agency selected by the DC.

In the letter of Hon'ble MP, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, an indication has been given that the information has been furnished to the concerned Office by the Office of the DM. This Ministry is not in receipt of the required information so far. A reminder has been sent to the DM on 29.11.02 and 02.12.02 by FAX. The copy of the letter of DM Birbhum enclosed with the letter of Shri Somnath Chatterjee does not throw any light on this aspect. This Ministry would be able to arrive at a conclusion in the matter after receipt of the required clarification from the DM.”

Recommendation

21.4 The Committee consider the proposal of Shri Somnath Chatterjee, MP(LS) and approve it by giving relaxation beyond the limit of Rs. 25 lakh for construction of a Jasara bridge at the cost of Rs. 39 lakh under Singhee Gram Panchayat Samiti of Bolpur Panchayat Samiti in Bolpur Parliamentary constituency of West Bengal.

New Delhi
April, 2003
Chaitra, 1925(S)

P.H.PANDIAN
Chairman,
Committee on Members of Parliament
Local Area Development
Scheme