

COMMITTEE ON MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT
LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

(THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA)

SIXTH REPORT

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

[Action Taken on the recommendations contained in the First Report of
the Committee on Members of Parliament Local Area Development
Scheme on Proposals to amend Guidelines on MPLADS
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)]

Presented to Lok Sabha on : 31.07.2001

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

July , 2001/Sravana , 1923(S)

CONTENTS

Composition of MPLADS Committee

Introduction

CHAPTER I Report

CHAPTER II Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government

CHAPTER III Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the reply of the Government

CHAPTER IV Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee

CHAPTER V Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited

APPENDICES

- I. Minutes of sitting of Committee on MPLADS held on 14.5.2001**
- II. Analysis of action taken by Government on the Recommendations contained in the First Report of the Committee on MPLADS (Thirteenth Lok Sabha)**
- III. Statement of Observations/Recommendations**

COMPOSITION OF THE MPLADS COMMITTEE

Dr. Bolla Bulli Ramaiah - **Chairman**

MEMBERS

2. **Shri Adhi Sankar**
3. **Shri Arun Kumar**
4. **Dr. Baliram**
5. **Shri G.M. Banatwalla**
6. **Shri Surendra Singh Barwala**
7. **Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi**
8. **Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi**
9. **Shri Bikram Keshari Deo**
10. **Shri Raghuvir Singh Kaushal**
11. **Shri Chandrakant Khaire**
12. **Shri Sis Ram Ola**
13. **Prof. R.R. Pramanik**
14. **Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan**
15. **Shri Rajendrasinh Rana**
16. **Shri S.B.P.B.K. Satyanarayana Rao**
17. **Shri Tara Chand Sahu**
18. **Shri Saiduzzama**
19. **Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan**
20. **Shri Balbir Singh**
21. **Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh**
22. **Shri Chinmayanand Swami**
23. **Shri Ravi Prakash Verma**
24. **Shri Dinesh Chandra Yadav**

SECRETARIAT

1. **Dr.(Smt.) Paramjit Kaur Sandhu** - **Joint Secretary**
2. **Shri K.L. Narang** - **Director**
3. **Shri S.C.Kaliraman** - **Assistant Director**

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Committee on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) (2001) having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Sixth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the First Report of the Committee (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation 'Proposals to amend Guidelines on MPLADS.'

2. The First Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 12 May, 2000. The Government furnished the replies indicating action taken on all the recommendations on 13 June, 2000 and 5 February, 2001. The draft action report was considered and adopted by the Committee on MPLADS at their sitting held on 14 May, 2001.

3. An analysis of action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the First Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given in the Appendix-II.

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

New Delhi
14 May, 2001
24 Vaisakha, 1923(S)

Dr. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH
Chairman,
Committee on Members of Parliament
Local Area Development Scheme

CHAPTER I

REPORT

This Report of the Committee on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme deals with the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in their First Report on '**Proposals to amend Guidelines on MPLADS**' in respect of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The First Report of the Committee was presented to Lok Sabha on 12 May, 2000.

2. Action taken notes have been received from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India on all the 12 observations/recommendations. These have been categorised as follows:-

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

Serial Nos.: 1 (Para 1.9), 2 (Para 1.10), 3 (Para 1.11), 4 (Para 2.5), 6(Para 4.8), 7 (Para 5.7), 9 (Para 6.3), 10 (Para 6.4) and 12 (Para 7.2).

(Chapter II)

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

- NIL -

(Chapter III)

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

Serial Nos. 5 (Para 3.3), 8 (Para 5.8) and 11 (Para 6.5)

(Chapter IV)

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

- NIL -

(Chapter V)

3. The Committee will now deal with the action taken by the Government on some of their Observations/Recommendations in the succeeding paragraphs.

Utilisation of MPLADS funds for creating computer centres – not only in Government and Government aided institutions but also in recognised institutions (Para No.3.3)

4. The Committee on MPLADS after having considered the proposals of hon'ble Minister of State for Planning, Statistics and Programme Implementation and Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances and also keeping in view the relevance, utility and requirement of computers in the day to day activities, had in paragraph 3.3, in their First Report recommended that necessary amendment might be made in the Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme for use of funds under the Scheme for creating computer centres – not only in institutions and Government aided institutions but also in Government recognised institutions. The Committee had also expressed their desire that a specific provision might also be made in the Guidelines to prevent assets which have been created from being transferred to or by any private body.

**Use of MPLADS funds for providing drinking water tankers
(Para No. 6.5)**

5. In their First Report (Para 6.5), the Committee had inter alia recommended that the Members of Parliament might be permitted to utilise MPLADS funds for providing drinking water tankers to mitigate the suffering of people in their constituencies, which come in the grip of extreme drought conditions.

6. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation vide their action taken notes in relation to the above mentioned paras have stated that both the aforesaid recommendations viz., relating to utilisation of MPLADS funds for creating computer centres – not only in Government and Government aided institutions but also in Government recognised institutions and for making provision for providing drinking water tankers out of MPLADS funds to mitigate the suffering of people in their constituencies, which come in the grip of extreme drought conditions respectively, were referred to the Committee on MPLADS, Rajya Sabha for their consideration and approval. In their response, it has been stated by the Ministry that the Committee on MPLADS, Rajya Sabha have not approved the above mentioned proposals.

7. The Committee note the position stated by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and are of the view that both the aforesaid proposals are essential to address the grievances and problems based on the locally felt needs of their constituents. The Committee, therefore, earnestly desire that the Ministry should implement the aforesaid proposals and if necessary take up the matter with the Committee on MPLADS, Rajya Sabha and get them approved so that the MPLADS funds could be utilised for

creating computer centres – not only in Government and Government aided institutions but also in recognised institutions and for provision of water tankers for transportation of potable water to mitigate the hardships of their constituents in drought affected areas. The Committee hope that the Ministry would take prompt and swift action in this regard and inform them accordingly as early as possible.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (SI. No.1, Para 1.9)

The Committee note that at present the works which are developmental in nature and lead to creation of durable assets based on locally felt needs, recommended by the Members can be undertaken under MPLAD Scheme. The Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme specifically prohibit purchase of inventory items/stock of any type except electronic projects such as computer, information footpath, ham club, Citizen Band radio.

The Hon'ble Minister in his letter addressed to the Hon'ble Speaker, has stated that requests have been received from Hon'ble Members for allowing audio-visual aids under MPLADS to benefit the student community. Such items may include purchase of colour TV, video cassettes, video cassettes players, video cassettes recorder. The Committee, while approving the proposal of the Hon'ble Minister recommend that this facility should also be extended to permanently recognised high schools and colleges. The Committee, accordingly, recommend that the proposal might be amended to read as follows :-

“Permitting purchase of audio-visual aids of educational nature in Government, Government aided and permanently recognised high schools/colleges.”

Reply of the Government

The following has been added as Items 26 in the Illustrative List of works that can be taken up under MPLADS given at Appendix 1 of the Guidelines.

“26 Purchase of Audio Visual Aids of educational nature for Government, Government-aided and also unaided but Government recognized educational institutions provided there is proper place and proper provision for safe custody of these aids.”

Recommendation (SI. No.2, Para 1.10)

The Committee approve the proposal forwarded by the Government for allowing night soil disposal system and desire that this should be implemented without any delay.

Reply of the Government

The following has been added as Items 27 in the Illustrative List of works

that can be taken up under MPLADS given at Appendix I of the Guidelines:

“27 Purchase of Night Soil Disposal System for local bodies.”

Recommendation (SI. No.3, Para 1.11)

The Committee note the position stated by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation that nominated Members have represented that they should be allowed to recommend works throughout the country on the plea that they are the Presidential nominees and represent whole of the country and not a particular State.

The nominated Members of Lok Sabha in particular have been arguing that they represent the Anglo-India community, which is scattered all over the country. Keeping in view the repeated requests made by the nominated Members, the Government have decided to consider amending the relevant provision of the Guidelines to allow nominated Members to recommend works under the Scheme in one or more districts throughout the country. Since there are a total of only 14 Members of Parliament, the co-ordination problem arising from the above proposal can be taken care of at the Central level.

In view of the foregoing, the Committee recommend that, as proposed by the Ministry, relevant sentence in Para No. 1.2 of the Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme might be amended to read as follows :-

“Nominated Members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha may also select works in one or more districts anywhere in the country.”

Reply of the Government

The provisions regarding Nominated Members contained in Para 1.2 of the Guidelines have been amended to read as follows:

“Nominated Members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha may also select works for implementation in one or more Districts anywhere in the country.”

Recommendation (SI. No.4, Para 2.5)

The Committee note the proposal of the Hon'ble Minister of Railways contained in her letter received through the Hon'ble Minister of State for Planning, Statistics and Programme Implementation and Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances for inclusion of items connected with Railway Passenger Amenities in the Illustrative List of Works that can be taken up under MPLAD Scheme. The Committee while not approving the proposal recommend that no amount should be made available from the MPLADS funds for utilisation for Plan projects of the Union Government for which budgetary provisions could be made under Plan allocation.

Reply of the Government

As the Committee has not approved the proposal, no further action is required.

Recommendation (SI. No.6, Para 4.8)

The matter was placed before the Committee to consider whether arrangements for training of District officials concerned with the implementation of MPLAD Scheme may be made by BPST or by State Governments concerned in the light of experience gained by them in the functioning and performance of district officials and for incorporating in their Training Programme corrective measures to improve deficiencies observed in implementation of the Scheme.

In the considered view of the Committee, State Governments concerned may make arrangements for training of District officials concerned with the implementation of MPLAD Scheme in the light of experience gained by them in the functioning and performance of District Officials and for incorporating corrective measures in their Training Programmes to improve deficiencies observed in implementation of the Scheme. Also the objectives can be further achieved by circulating the various suggestions/recommendations made by the Committee in their Reports presented to Parliament to each and every Department of State Governments for guidance.

Reply of the Government

Para 5.7 of the Guidelines has been replaced by the following:

“5.7 State Governments concerned may make arrangements for training of District officials concerned with the implementation of MPLAD Scheme. In the light of experience gained in the functioning and performance of District officials, corrective measures may be incorporated by the State in their training programmes to improve deficiencies observed in implementation of the Scheme.”

As regards the observations for circulating various suggestions/recommendations made by the Committee to State Governments, the same is noted for compliance.

Recommendation (SI. No.7, Para 5.7)

The Committee note the position stated by Hon'ble Minister in his reply on the proposal for proportionate increase in the allocation of MPLADS funds based on the population of voters in the constituency. The Committee are not in favour of increase in MPLADS funds based on population in proportion to the population of the constituency.

Reply of the Government

The Committee are not in favour of the proposal. No further action is required.

Recommendation (SI. No.9, Para 6.3)

The Committee note that in November, 1999 during the course of discussion in Lok Sabha on loss of life and property due to super cyclone in Orissa, a suggestion was made in the House that Rs. 10 lakh from MPLADS funds of every Member be contributed towards Orissa cyclone relief. In response the Hon'ble PM had observed that there should be no objection in agreeing to the suggestion and that no rule should come in the way of this suggestion.

The Committee note that Guidelines on MPLADS permit utilisation of MPLADS funds within the constituency of Lok Sabha MP and within the State of election for elected Rajya Sabha MP. Keeping in view the natural calamity of unprecedented magnitude in Orissa, the Committee approve the proposal of the Government for modification in the Guidelines allowing the Members to contribute Rs. 10 lakh for reconstruction and rehabilitation in cyclone-affected areas of Orissa.

Reply of the Government

The following has been added as Para 1.3 in the Guidelines:-

“1.3 MPs can also recommend works outside their Constituencies/States for an amount not exceeding Rs.10 lakhs per annum 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”.

The Orissa Super Cyclone case gets covered in this amendment.

Recommendation (SI. No.10, Para 6.4)

The Committee also recommend that there should be a specific provision in the Guidelines on MPLADS for contribution by Members not exceeding Rs. 10 lakh per annum for rehabilitation measures in natural calamity of rare severity in any part of the country.

Reply of the Government

The following has been added as Para 1.3 in the Guidelines:-

“1.3 MPs can also recommend works outside their Constituencies/States for an amount not exceeding Rs.10 lakhs per annum 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”.

Recommendation (SI. No.12, Para 7.2)

The Committee feel that the present limit for an MP to suggest individual works costing not more than Rs. 10 lakh per work under MPLADS is not conducive for completion of developmental works, particularly where the cost is more than Rs. 10 lakh. The Committee, therefore, recommend that suitable amendment may be carried out in Para 4.1 of the Guidelines on MPLADS to raise the present limit of Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 25 lakh per work for individual works suggested by an MP.

Reply of the Government

Para 4.1 of the Guidelines has been amended to read as follows:-

“Ideally it would be desirable that the MPs suggest individual works costing not more than Rs.25 lakhs per work. However, the limit of Rs. 25 lakhs per work should not be too rigidly construed. Amounts higher than Rs.25 lakhs per work can be spent depending upon the nature of the work. (For example, a single check dam to provide minor irrigation or water supply or a sports stadium may cost more than Rs.25 lakhs. In the case of such works higher amount can be legitimately spent).”

CHAPTER III

**RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE
DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE REPLY
OF THE GOVERNMENT**

- NIL -

CHAPTER IV

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE

Recommendation (SI. No.5, Para 3.3)

The Committee on consideration of the proposal received from the Minister of State for Planning, Statistics and Programme Implementation and Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances recommend that necessary amendment may be made in the Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme for use of funds under the Scheme for creating Computer Centres – not only in Government institutions and Government aided institutions but also in Government recognised institutions. The Committee also desire that a specific provision may also be made in the Guidelines to prevent assets which have been created from being transferred to or by any private body.

Reply of the Government

The recommendations of the Committee on MPLADS (Rajya Sabha) on the matter are yet to be received. Forwarding a copy of the above recommendation to Rajya Sabha Secretariat, they have been requested to expedite the decision of the Rajya Sabha Committee.

Recommendation (SI. No.8, Para 5.8)

The Committee further note that MPLADS allocation per year per MP was doubled on 23rd December, 1998. Funds amounting to Rs. 2 crore are being released for each MP from the year 1998-99. The Committee feel that this increased amount of Rs. 2 crore per year is just not sufficient to implement developmental schemes based on the locally felt needs of the constituents. The Committee therefore recommend that the present allocation of Rs. 2 crore may be enhanced to Rs. 4 crore.

Reply of the Government

The Government's stand for not increasing the present level of allocation of Rs.2 crores per year per MP, has been made clear in the Half an Hour Discussion in the Lok Sabha on 10th May, 2000.

Recommendation (SI. No.11, Para 6.5)

The Committee also desire that Members might be permitted to utilise MPLAD funds for providing drinking water tankers and digging of bore wells to mitigate the sufferings of people in their constituencies, which come in the grip of extreme drought conditions.

Reply of the Government

The digging of bore wells is already permitted under the Scheme. As regards allowing purchase of drinking water tankers, the proposal has been referred to the Committee on MPLADS, Rajya Sabha for their recommendation. Necessary action to amend the Guidelines will be taken on receipt of their recommendation.

CHAPTER V

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE STILL AWAITED

- NIL -

New Delhi
14 May, 2001
24 Vaisakha, 1923(S)

Dr. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH
Chairman,
Committee on Members of Parliament
Local Area Development Scheme

**MINUTES OF SIXTH SITTING OF COMMITTEE ON MEMBERS OF
PARLIAMENT LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME
(LOK SABHA)**

The Committee sat on Monday, the 14th May, 2001 from 1400 to 1445 hours.

PRESENT

Dr. Bolla Bulli Ramaiah - Chairman

MEMBERS PRESENT

2. Shri Adhi Sankar
3. Dr. Baliram
4. Shri G.M. Banatwalla
5. Shri Raghuvir Singh Kaushal
6. Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan
7. Shri Saiduzzama
8. Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan
9. Shri Balbir Singh
10. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh
11. Shri Chinmayanand Swami

SECRETARIAT

1. Dr.(Smt.) Paramjit Kaur Sandhu - Joint Secretary
2. Shri R.N. Kalra - Director
3. Shri S.C.Kaliraman - Assistant Director

2. At the outset, the Committee considered the Draft Action Taken Report on the First Report of the Committee on MPLADS on 'Proposals to amend Guidelines on MPLADS' and adopted the same without any modification.

3. The Committee authorised the Chairman to finalise the Report and also to make verbal and consequential changes, if any, arising out of factual verification by the Ministry and present the same to Lok Sabha.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX

(Vide Para 3 of the Introduction)

**ANALYSIS OF THE ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE
RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE FIRST REPORT OF
THE COMMITTEE ON MPLADS (THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA) ON
PROPOSALS TO AMEND GUIDELINES ON MPLADS OF THE MINISTRY
OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME
IMPLEMENTATION**

	Total	% of Total
(i) Total number of recommendations	12	
(ii) Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government.	9	75.00
(iii) Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the reply of the Government.	0	00.00
(iv) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee.	3	25.00
(v) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited.	0	00.00

APPENDIX – III

STATEMENT OF OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Sl. No.	Para No.	Ministry	Observations/Recommendations
1	2	3	4

1. 1.7 M/O. Statistics and Programme

Implementation The Committee note the position stated by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and are of the view that both the aforesaid proposals are essential to address the grievances and problems based on the locally felt needs of their constituents. The Committee, therefore, earnestly desire that the Ministry should implement the aforesaid proposals and if necessary take up the matter with the Committee on MPLADS, Rajya Sabha and get them approved so that the MPLADS funds could be utilised for creating computer centres – not only in Government and Government aided institutions but also for provision of water tankers for transportation of potable water to mitigate the hardships of their constituents in drought affected areas. The Committee hope that the Ministry would take prompt and swift action in this regard and inform them accordingly as early as possible.