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Title: Need to enhance the MPLAD Fund from Rs. 2 crore to Rs. 5 crore.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : The point I want to raise is the need to increase the MPLAD Scheme fund from Rs.2 crore to Rs.5 crore. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: In the last week alone, we did not work for 19 hours!

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : But the general impression.. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No work, more pay!

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : The Justice Venkatachellai Commission has gone into it and made certain recommendations.

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It recommended that this should be scrapped. Shri Era Sezhan has also written a book. The general impression is that all the MPs are swindlers; they are swindling the money; and that the hon. Prime Minister of this country, at the beginning of every year, probably buys big suitcases, stuffs it with currency worth Rs.2 crore, gives it to all the MPs and asks them to spend the way they like!

But this is the Report of the Committee on MPLADS; this is the first Report; this has come out in December 2006; this was given by the Ministry itself. It says that the MPLADS is a fully funded Government of India Plan Scheme under which the funds are directly released to the district authorities and not to the MPs.

MR. SPEAKER: We all know that.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Basically I am referring to this because 'â€' (*Interruptions*) \*

MR. SPEAKER: No. You cannot address like this. Do not do that; it is not permitted under the rules. Let that be struck out.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Works that are of developmental in nature, based on locally felt needs and that are always available for public use, related to national priorities such as provision of drinking water, public health, education, sanitation, roads, etc. are included.

MR. SPEAKER: That is all right. That is all known. Everybody knows it.

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\* Not recorded

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : It is only recommendatory in nature.

Sir, you may have a different opinion on this. But please allow me.

MR. SPEAKER: It does not matter whether I have a different opinion or not.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : It is all right, if you have a different opinion; naturally you are free to have a different opinion. But please allow me.

MR. SPEAKER: I am allowing you. I am only asking you not to read out because this is known to everybody.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : The district authority is the one which is executing the schemes. Secondly, this report, at page 19 says that the percentage of expenditure over release of money is 90.87. Is there any other Government sponsored scheme where the expenditure is 90 per cent or 91 per cent? Here it is 90 per cent. It is written at page number 19 of this report.

Let me also say that in every State, MLAs are having their own Local Area Development Fund. In the case of Karnataka, it is

Rs.1 crore; in the case of Madhya Pradesh, it is Rs.80 lakh; in the case of Rajasthan it is Rs.80 lakh; in Manipur, they can recommend up to Rs.30 lakh; one MP is having 28 MLAs in his constituency. In Nagaland, it is Rs.78 lakh; there are 60 MLAs in one MP constituency here. In Kerala, it is Rs.75 lakh.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your point? You want to increase it to Rs.5 crore; it is all right.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : In the case of Uttar Pradesh, it is Rs.1.25 lakh. In the case of cost, it is stated that seven km. road construction was made at the rate of Rs.5 lakh per km; 250 hand-pumps were put up at the rate of Rs.20,000 per hand-pump.

MR. SPEAKER: You want more money; it is okay.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : In the case of Delhi, it is Rs.2 crore per MLA.

In 1998, this amount was enhanced from Rs.1 crore to Rs.2 crore. The purchase parity of money which was Rs. 2 crore has come down.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a debate. You may just raise it. It is enough. You cannot go on indefinitely.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : There is no question of 'going on indefinitely'. ...(Interruptions) If I am not allowed to raise this matter here, where should I raise it? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You will be allowed and you are being allowed, but there cannot be a speech on this. You may just refer to the matter, that is all. You cannot go on like this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat, Shri Athawale.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : In 1998, for the construction of a classroom in a school, I was recommending the work for Rs.1.1 lakh. But now, for the same classroom, I have to recommend for Rs.2 lakh. So, the purchase parity has come down by more than 40 per cent.

The MLAs, Zila Parishad Members, Sarpanchs, Panchayat Samiti Members are all having funds under LADS.

MR. SPEAKER: Please cooperate. Many hon. Members are waiting for their turns.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, this scheme is being monitored at five different levels. [\[MSOffice18\]](#)

The Member of Parliament monitors it himself. The District Administrator monitors it. The State Government and the Central Government also monitor it and ultimately it is the people who see to it. So, I would appeal to the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, who is present here, to please respond to it. My appeal to the Minister is to either increase the amount to Rs. 5 crore or scrap it altogether so that we can go to the people and say that our job is only *bhashanbaji* and we cannot do anything....(Interruptions) So, I request you to either stop it or to increase the amount. Thank you....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, nothing of the sort is allowed. Shri E. Ponnuswamy, Shri A. Krishnaswamy, Shri Manjunath Kunnur, Shrimati Kiran Maheshwari, Shri Virendra Kumar, Shrimati Karuna Shukla, Shrimati Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo and Shri P.S. Gadhavi are allowed to associate in this matter.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing, except whatever Shri Kharventhan says will go on record.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: Not a single word, except whatever Shri Kharventhan says, will go on record.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: People are looking at us. People all over the country are looking at us. We are fighting for more money for ourselves.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I thought that people will say 'No work No pay'.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Only Shri Khanventahn's submission will go on record.

(Interruptions)\*