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Title: Need to review the decision to exclude 'construction of drains' from the list of works permitted to be implemented through MPLAD Scheme.

SHRI P. LINGAM (TENKASI): The work relating to construction of drains is important and it was in the list of permissible works under Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS). Villages and towns were much benefitted by this. The drains help us to dispose of all the sewage and effluents and help in keeping our surroundings neat and clean. In this regard, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation *vide* their File No. C.C. 44/2012 "MPLADS dated 23 May 2013 mentioned that "Construction of drain, etc." has now been included in the list of prohibited works implemented through MPLAD Scheme. Due to this decision of the Union government, bigger cities and villages may be deprived of efficient drainage systems. I want to know on what basis the construction of drains has been included in the list of prohibited works under MPLAD Scheme?. There was no explanation or information on why this work has been prohibited. A well-built drainage system is the need of the hour. Sanitation measures are very much affected due to this hasty decision. Instead of expanding the drainage related work, the Government has prohibited it under the MPLAD Scheme. Sanitation workers are also facing the difficulties due to this decision. They may be forced to carry liquid waste and effluents on their heads to dispose of them. Moreover sanitation work may also be affected.

I, therefore, urge that work relating to construction of drains should be included among permissible works under MPLAD Scheme. I also urge that the decision taken by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation under File No. CC44/20 1 2-MPLADS be immediately withdrawn.