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Title:Statement regarding increase of amount of Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme-Laid.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): Sir, on behalf of the Prime Minister, I lay the statement regarding Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme increasing the amount from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 2 crore per year and some other benefits to be implemented from the year 1998-99.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 2356/98)

STATEMENT IN LOK SABHA ON 23RD DECEMBER 1998

REGARDING MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Members of Parliament belonging to almost all political parties have for some time been demanding that the amount allocated under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme be increased. As we are all aware, when the Scheme was initiated in 1993, each Member of Parliament had a choice to suggest works to the tune of Rs. 1 crore as per the guidelines.

It has been increasingly perceived that though the efficacy of the scheme is not in doubt, in view of the increasing demands made on Members of Parliament for development of their areas and the rising cost of inputs, the amount of Rs. 1 crore need to be increased. Separate meetings were held under the Chairmanship of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha wherein it was proposed that Government should increase the allocation to Rs. 2 crore per Member of Parliament. It gives me pleasure to announce that my Government has accepted this recommendation.

Further it has also been decided that the interest accrued on the funds deposited with the nationalised banks may be used for the same purpose for which the basic amount has been allocated. It has also been decided that in respect of the Members of Rajya Sabha, the unspent balance left by the predecessor Rajya Sabha MP in a particular State will be equally distributed amongst the successor Rajya Sabha Member from that particular State. All these changes/modifications will come into effect from the financial year 1998-99.

We hope with the increased allocation and modifications made by us, Members of Parliament will be in a better position to serve the people.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the National Song will be played. I am requesting all the hon. Members to go back to their seats.

(The National Song was played.)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned sine die.

15.24 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.