

**Minutes of the Review Meeting on Implementation of MPLADS with Nodal Secretaries of State Governments and UT Administrations held on 6<sup>th</sup> February, at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.**

A meeting of Nodal Secretaries of MPLADS of State Governments and UT Administrations was held on **6<sup>th</sup> February, 2012** at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Dr. T.C.A. Anant, Secretary, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MOSPI), chaired the meeting. Shri Pankaj Jain, Additional Secretary (MOSPI), Nodal Secretaries and senior officers including Distt. Collectors / Distt. Magistrates of some districts from State/UT Governments and officers of the MPLADS Division participated in the meeting. The list of participants is annexed.

Secretary Dr. T.C.A. Anant welcomed all participants and briefly outlined the agenda for the meeting. In his address, Secretary (S&PI) expressed great concern over delay in implementation of MPLAD Scheme especially at the implementing level as it has the corresponding effect of causing delays at all other levels i.e. furnishing of Utilisation Certificate and Monthly Progress Report and consequent delay in release of next and subsequent instalments. The problem, he stated, is more serious in case of Rajya Sabha MPs as according to the existing guidelines, the RS MP can recommend projects in any district in the state of election while the funds in their case are released to the Nodal Distt. The Nodal Distt. in such cases has to collect UCs and ACs from a large number of implementing districts which leads to delay in submitting these documents to the Ministry and consequently delays release of further instalments. In order to address the delay in release of funds, he suggested if the State Nodal Departments may act as the Nodal Authorities for Rajya Sabha MPs in place of Nodal Districts as the State Nodal Departments will have better control on implementing districts. This would further improve the implementation of the Scheme in the State & subsequently expedite the release of documents for the release of funds to the Rajya Sabha MPs from the Ministry. Secretary (S&PI) also stressed upon the importance of holding regular Review meetings by State and District Authorities and for inviting the concerned MPs to these meetings. The Secretary also drew reference to Ministry's proposal for setting up a separate MPLADS Monitoring Division in the States and requested the representatives of States/UTs for their feedback. Finally he drew the attention of all participants to the instructions issued by M/o Personnel, Public Grievances, Deptt. of Personnel & Training regarding observance of proper procedure in official dealings between administration and the Members of Parliament and asked them to follow the instructions in letter and spirit.

After the inaugural address by Secretary, Addl. Secretary Shri Pankaj Jain highlighted the agenda items through a Power Point Presentation and invited the participants for discussions on the following issues:

**1. Review of various constituencies of Lok Sabha and Nodal Districts of Rajya Sabha MPs**

Since certain districts in the country are performing better while some other districts are not doing so well, Addl. Secy. urged the better performing districts to share their experience in overcoming the impediments so that the problems being faced by



the lesser performing districts may be resolved. The general consensus emerged that pro-active role by District Authorities is necessary for better implementation of the Scheme.

## **2. Distribution of 2% Administrative Expenses**

Addl. Secretary asked the representatives whether they have opened separate bank account for depositing their share of 2% Administrative Expenses at State level , Nodal District and Implementing District level. He urged all the States to open separate bank account to avail their share out of 2% Administrative Expenses from MPLADS funds. The states were of the view that at the State Nodal level also, they may be allowed to utilize the Administrative Expenses for the same purpose for which the Nodal Districts have been allowed to use it since they also need stationary etc.

The Addl. Secretary asked the States to send a proposal in this regard for consideration of the Ministry so that appropriate instructions could be issued. It was also clarified that UCs in respect of MPLADS installments may be furnished to the Ministry without waiting for the Ucs in respect of the 2% administrative expenses to avoid delay in release of further installments, and MOSPI ( with approval of Internal Finance) will consider further releases accordingly.

## **3. Creation of Monitoring Cell at State level**

With increase in annual allocation and consequent increase in number of works , it has become imperative that a stringent monitoring of implementation of MPLADS works is done at State level. The Parliamentary Committees of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha have been emphasizing the need to set up a separate MPLADS Monitoring Cell in the States/Uts. The State Govts were asked in Sep. 2011 to take action for setting up of an exclusive Monitoring Cell headed by at least Joint Secretary/Addl. Secretary/ Special Secretary level officer. The proposals have been received from some of the states. Most of the States agreed on the need to have a separate Monitoring Cell, but cited manpower problem and informed that owing to ban on creation of posts, a large number of posts in States remain vacant.

All the States/Uts were asked to send their proposals indicating the additional assistance, if any, required over and above the 2% Administrative Expenses for setting up the Monitoring Cells. It was however, clarified that any additional assistance which will be given by the Centre to set up/ augment , such Monitoring Cells will not go for creation of any fresh posts, but persons on contract could be hired.

## **4. Sanctioning of MPLADS works upto the entitlement of an MP**

The provisions contained in Para 2.6 Para 3.7 and Para 4.13 of the MPLADS Guidelines which relate to sanctioning of MPLADS works up to the entitlement of an MP without physical availability of the funds, since the MPLADS funds are non-lapsable, were reiterated by the Addl. Secretary. This would expedite the implementation of the works recommended by the Members of Parliament. However most of the States informed that as per their financial norms, sanctioning, tendering and issue of work order can only be undertaken after having the availability of funds.

#### **5. Slow implementation and execution of works**

MPLADS guidelines stipulate that the time limit for completion of works should not generally exceed one year, but this is not being adhered to by the implementing agencies. The Parliamentary Committees on MPLADS are seriously concerned with slow implementation and execution of MPLADS works. At present a large number of Districts have not been able to utilize the funds released for the financial year 2008-09. The backlog is likely to increase with the increase in annual allocation of MPs from Rs. 2 crores to 5 crores.

Addl. Secretary suggested that a shelf of projects be maintained for common items of works (recommended by the MPs) and standard designs and estimates may be prepared and made available to the MPs. The States were also urged to examine the issue of delay in implementation of works and submission of MPRs, ACs and Ucs and to take necessary measures to streamline the work implementation.

#### **6. Review meetings with the Members of Parliament**

It was informed by many delegates including those from Orissa, HP, Punjab, West Bengal and DC Bharoch(Gujarat) that although MPs are regularly invited to Review meetings, they do not attend most of the times.

It was suggested by Addl. Secretary that State Nodal Departments and District Authorities should continue to invite the MPs in review meetings as it is mandatory as per MPLADS guidelines. It was also requested that the minutes of the review meeting alongwith a copy of the invitation letter to the MP may be invariably forwarded to this Ministry, both by State Govt. and by the Nodal Distts.

#### **7. NGOs as Implementing Agencies**

Provision already exists in Para 2.11 of MPLADS guidelines that district authority may choose either Government Departments or Government agencies or reputed Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) who are capable of implementing the works satisfactorily as Implementing Agencies.

Addl. Secy. suggested that it was worth examining to involve NGOs in the developmental work, especially the reputed specialized NGOs which are working in the specific field and capable of delivering higher quality e.g. Rama Krishna Mission, Red Cross (Health) and Sulabh International (Sanitation) etc. after assessing their suitability.

#### **8. Shelf of Projects**

A new Para 3.27 has been added in the Guidelines recently vide Ministry's Circular dated 17.06.2011 which provides that the District Authority shall maintain and make available a "Shelf of Projects" to MPs.

The Additional Secretary urged all the District Authorities to prepare the "Shelf of Projects" based on the felt needs of the local people and provide to the MPs.



#### **9. Pending C&AG Para**

Addl. Secretary drew the attention of State Representatives to pending Action Taken Reports on C&AG Audit Paras. As in the previous Review Meetings, it was again stressed that Public Accounts Committee of the Parliament has taken a serious note of the irregularities pointed out in the C&AG Audit Paras on MPLAD Scheme. It is a matter of great concern that inspite of repeated reminders from the Ministry, complete reply & ATRs to Audit Paras have not been received from most of the States/UTs.

All the defaulting States/UTs were asked to expedite replies to the Audit Paras latest by **10<sup>th</sup> of March, 2012**.

#### **10. Closing of 14<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha Accounts and old Rajya Sabha accounts and distribution of unspent balance.**

The work relating to distribution of unspent /uncommitted balance after completion of eligible recommended works upto 14<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha has been completed in all States except U.P., Bihar, Jharkhand and Maharashtra. In March 2011, the Ministry had asked the District Authorities to send MPRs indicating zero unspent balance alongwith final UCs and final ACs for closing the accounts in respect of 14<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha. However, even the States which have completed the distribution have not closed the 14<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha accounts and these are still being reflected in the Monthly Progress Reports.

The State Nodal Departments and Distt. Authorities were again requested to send the final documents viz. MPRs indicating zero unspent balance and final UCs/ACs in respect of 14<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha by **10.03.2012**. In case of former Rajya Sabha MPs, the States were asked to follow the distribution of unspent balance as per MPLADS Guidelines and send the reports also by **10.03.2012**.

#### **11. Updating the Work Monitoring System**

Addl. Secy. informed that DCs are not updating Work Monitoring System regularly and properly. Even in cases where works have been completed, these are not shown as completed work in the WMS. Many Members of Parliament have complained about the discrepancy between information shown on WMS and factual position.

Addl. Secretary therefore emphasized that WMS should be updated on real time basis by the District Authorities, if necessary, by employing the staff on contract basis from the 2% Administrative Expenses fund.

#### **12. Single E-Portal**

Addl. Secretary emphasized the need to adopt a Single e portal having detailed information for release, expenditure and works and informed the gathering that the Ministry has undertaken a project to develop an integrated MPLADS System.

The proposal for single e portal was welcomed by all States/UTs.

### **13. Pending reconstruction/rehabilitation work in areas affected by natural calamities**

The progress on rehabilitation and reconstruction works in states/districts affected by natural calamities like Gujarat Earthquake, Tsunami, Cyclone Aila in West Bengal, Kosi flood in Bihar and Cloudburst in Leh district of J&K is very slow.

The concerned states/districts were urged to expedite the rehabilitation and reconstruction works and send progress reports regularly to the Ministry. The reports in respect of the current position were requested to be sent by **10.03.2012**.

### **14. Works and assets register**

During the physical monitoring of the scheme by NABCONS and also during inspections by the senior officers of the M/o S & PI, it was seen that the Works Registers and Assets Registers are not being maintained by many districts.

All the States were requested to maintain assets and work registers in prescribed form so that information/details of assets created under the scheme are easily available.

### **15. Presentation by ICAI**

A Power Point Presentation on recommendations on accounting and auditing part of MPLAD Scheme was made by the representative of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). On the basis of Audit observations of C&AG on the implementation of the scheme, it was suggested that all transactions at Nodal District level, Implementing District level and Implementing Agency level have to be captured in the accounts to give the real position of funds. It was suggested that accounts in three formats namely i) Receipt & Payment ii) Income & Expenditure iii) Balance Sheet, have to be maintained at every level. This will make the system more transparent and District-wise position of unspent balance, pending UCs and funds available etc. will also be readily available.

The meeting ended with Vote of Thanks to the Chair.