

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

A meeting of Nodal Secretaries of MPLADS of State Governments and UT Administrations was held on **6th 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.

