

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation monitors the on-going Central Sector Infrastructure Projects costing Rs. 150 crore and above on time and cost overruns. As on 1st December, 2013, 739 on-going Central Sector Projects were on the monitor of this Ministry. Of these, 231 projects are delayed as against their original dates of commissioning.

As reported by the project implementing agencies, the main reasons for delay in implementation are law and order problems, delay in land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement problems, fund constraints, delay in forest and environment clearances, right of way/right of use issues, delay in supply of material, contractual issues, etc.

The major steps undertaken to ensure timely completion of projects include rigorous project appraisal; On-line Computerized Monitoring System (OCMS) for better monitoring; setting up of Standing Committees in the Ministries for fixation of responsibility for time and cost overruns; regular review of the infrastructure projects by the concerned administrative Ministries; setting up of Cabinet Committee on Investment (CCI) to review and monitor the implementation of major projects, including issues relating to clearances/approvals; and setting up of Central Sector Projects Coordination Committees (CSPCCs) in the States under the Chief Secretaries for removal of bottlenecks and for facilitating the speedy implementation of major projects.

Delay in release of funds under MPLADS

3104. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether many complaints have been received regarding delay in release of funds under MPLADS to various Parliamentary constituencies in the country at the district level as well as at the level of Union Government;

(b) if so, the details of the reasons for delay in release of funds and the action taken by Government thereon; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure release of rest of MPLADS funds to all Parliamentary constituencies as per entitlement and the action taken by Government to avoid such instances in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) Complaints and references regarding delay in release of funds under the Members of Parliament

Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) are received in the Ministry on a continuing basis.

Release of funds under the MPLADS at the Central Government level as well as at the District level is governed by the provisions contained in the Guidelines of MPLADS.

The first installment of MPLADS funds is released subject to submission of provisional Utilisation Certificate (UC) of the previous year for at least 80% of expenditure of the first instalment of the previous year. The second instalment is released on submission of Monthly Progress Report (MPR) reflecting unsanctioned balance of less than Rs. 100 lakh and unspent balance of less than Rs. 250 lakh with the District Authority along with the Utilisation Certificate (UC) and Audit Certificate (AC) of the immediately concluded financial year. As soon as the requisite documents and certifications are received, the funds are released by the Central Government.

The District Authorities release funds to the Implementing Agencies in accordance with the State Government's rules/guidelines applicable for the purpose.

Funds under the MPLADS are non-lapsable, both at the end of the Central Government and at the end of the District Authorities. Members of Parliament can recommend works upto their full annual entitlement without linking with actual release of funds and District Authorities are required to undertake immediate sanction and implementation of the eligible works so recommended.

Government in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation continuously emphasizes on timely utilisation of funds and timely submission of required documents and certifications for further release of funds.

Misuse of MPLADS funds

3105. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has pointed out time and again that MPLADS funds are misused, and are not monitored and in many cases, even remain unspent;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the complete details constituency-wise and State-wise;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government for monitoring of MPLAD Scheme through impact assessments and publicly available audit details; and