

Bengal and the treatment success rate had been 86%. The treatment success rate in case of West Midnapore had been 85%.

Increasing of MPLAD Fund

1026. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry are considering the proposal in increase the amount of rupees two crores under MPLAD;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The budgetary provision under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme for the current financial year (2004-05) is at the rate of Rs. 2 crore per MP.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): I wish to submit that for the election of the Deputy Chairman, I have been in consultations with my colleagues in the National Democratic Alliance as also others. I do not wish to go into all the reasoning and persuasion that have prompted our valued colleagues take the step that we had. Nevertheless, it is our collective and considered view that when a new beginning in the management of the House or in the stewardship of the House is to be made, then it would be advisable, preferable indeed, that the new beginning was unopposed. Accordingly, I had requested my colleagues, particularly of Shiv Sena, and the candidate who wanted to contest for very good reasons, to withdraw. I had also then requested the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to share our request and he had very kindly and graciously consented to be with us in a meeting and, upon our joint request, we had decided that the election of the Deputy Chairman to the Rajya Sabha be unopposed. And, I accordingly, request the House to elect Shri Rahman Khan as Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha unopposed.