

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 432
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.02.2021

MPLADS FUNDS FOR SCs/STs

432. SHRI VIKAS MAHATME:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

- (a) by when the MPLADS funds of 2020-2021 will be released fully;
- (b) whether it is mandatory to spend 22.5 per cent of MPLADS funds on SC and ST population out of annual allocation of fund for each constituency;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether these guidelines apply to the constituencies with less percentage of SC and ST population;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (f) whether proportional percentage of fund is being allocated and spent on SC and ST population in all constituencies;
- (g) if so, the details thereof; and
- (h) steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

- (a) Government has decided not to operate the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) for two years, that is, during FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22 and decided to place the MPLADS funds for FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22 at the disposal of the Ministry of Finance for strengthening its efforts in managing the challenges of COVID-19 which has been declared as a global pandemic and a notified disaster in the country. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has already placed the budgetary outlay of 2020-21 of MPLADS at the disposal of Ministry of Finance and is not in a position to release any instalment or a part thereof during the FY 2020-21 and 2021-22.

(b) and (c) Para 2.5 (Amended) of MPLADS Guideline states that

In order to give due attention to the development of infrastructure in the areas inhabited by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Member of Parliament (s) are to recommend every year, works costing at least 15 per cent of the MPLADS entitlement for the year for areas inhabited by Scheduled Caste (SC) population and 7.5 per cent for areas inhabited by Scheduled Tribes (ST) population".

In case the constituency of a Lok Sabha Member has insufficient ST population, such fund may be utilized in SC inhabited areas and Vice-versa. Further, in case the constituency of a Lok Sabha Member has insufficient SC and ST population (both put together) in the area, they may recommend works for creation of community assets in SC/ST areas outside their constituency but within their State of election. It shall be the responsibility of the district authority to enforce the provisions of the guideline. In order to facilitate implementation of these guidelines, it will be the responsibility of the district authority keeping in view the extant provisions of State and Central Government's to declare areas eligible for utilization for funds meant for the benefit of SC & ST population.

(d) to (e) Please refer to the reply given with reference to part (b) and (c) above.

(f) to (h) Under MPLAD Scheme, Members of Parliament are to recommend every year, works costing at least 15 per cent of the MPLADS entitlement for the year for areas inhabited by Scheduled Caste (SC) population and 7.5 per cent for areas inhabited by Scheduled Tribes (ST) population.

As per Para 2.5.2 of MPLADS guidelines, the exemption from the stipulated provision for utilization of MPLADS funds for SC/ST can be made by the concerned Nodal District Authority with the prior approval of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in case any constituency faces difficulty in implementing the provisions relating to SC/ST as stipulated in the Guidelines of MPLADS, owing to inadequate SC/ST population. The concerned Nodal District Authority, in consultation with the MP concerned, should send a justified and logical proposal, through the State Government, seeking utilization of the stipulated amount for the welfare of the other economically deprived sections of population in the constituency.

As per Para 2.5.3 of MPLADS guidelines, the District Authorities should maintain information and data on implementation of the provision for SC/ST areas including inter changeability of funds and also furnish the same on quarterly basis to the nodal department of the State Government.

In the Monthly Progress Report prepared by Nodal District Authority, there is a dedicated section for physical and financial details of work in scheduled caste and schedule tribe areas, separately for each sitting / former Rajya Sabha / Lok Sabha Member.
