

Minutes of the Review Meeting on Implementation of MPLADS with Nodal Secretaries of State Governments and UT Administrations held on 17th August, 2011 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

A meeting of Nodal Secretaries of MPLADS of State Governments and UT Administrations was held on **17.08.2011 at 10.00 A.M.** at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Shri Srikant Kumar Jena, Hon'ble Minister of State (IC), Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation. Dr. T.C.A. Anant, Secretary (S & PI), Shri Pankaj Jain, Additional Secretary, Nodal Secretaries and senior officers from State/UT Governments and officers of the MPLADS Division participated in the meeting. The list of participants is annexed.

2. Additional Secretary in his welcome address greeted the Hon'ble Minister, Secretary (S & PI) and representatives of States/UTs and briefly outlined the agenda for the meeting. The Addl. Secretary underlined the need to gear up the state machinery for faster implementation of projects under the scheme, especially in view of the increased allocation of MPLADS funds from Rs. 2 crores to 5 crores annually for each MP. **DR.T.C.A. Anant, Secretary (S & PI)** in his address expressed concern over large unspent balances of former Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha MPs lying with the state governments as reported by the C&AG in the Performance Audit Report. Funds are lying unspent inspite of the fact that works had been recommended by the MPs and already approved by Distt. Authorities. The failure to complete the works in time reflected poorly on State Administrative Machinery and implementing agencies. He asked the states to complete the distribution of unspent/ uncommitted balance without any further delay. Bank details for electronically transferring the MPLADS funds

were not received from many districts. The Secretary directed the defaulting states/ Distts to submit bank details for transferring the funds through ECS/RTGS immediately. The Secretary also expressed his displeasure over the inordinate delay in receiving comments from District Authorities on the complaints received from Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha MPs and stated that it was viewed seriously by both Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha Committees on MPLADS. Finally he advised the State/UT Authorities for sending proposals to the Ministry for training on MPLADS Guidelines.

3. Shri Srikant Kumar Jena, Hon'ble MOS (IC) appreciated the overall performance of the MPLAD Scheme and the remarkable achievement in the percentage utilization over the release of the MPLADS funds. However he stressed the need to have vigorous monitoring of the scheme at district and state level, especially in view of the increased allocation of funds under the scheme. The Hon'ble Minister, MOS & PI also stressed on a more proactive approach by every District Authority in sanctioning the works recommended by the MPs, provided these are eligible works as per the MPLADS Guidelines. The Members should also be informed about the ineligible works as soon as possible. Hon'ble Minister was of the view that time limit of 45 days prescribed in the MPLADS guidelines, for informing the concerned MPs of ineligible works, was rather high as the District Authorities are aware of the guidelines and of the works prohibited under the guidelines and a decision in this regard can be taken immediately. He suggested that this may be looked in to by the Ministry and, if necessary, suitable amendment in the guidelines may be done. Hon'ble Minister also drew the attention of the States to huge unspent balance of former Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Members and urged them to

complete distribution of the balance amount so that these funds could be utilized for creation of assets under the MPLAD scheme.

4. After the inaugural address by the Hon'ble Minister, Addl. Secretary Shri Pankaj Jain gave a Power Point presentation and discussed the following issues with the representatives of the State/UT Governments:-

i) Online Monthly Progress Reporting System (OMPRS) and Work Monitoring Software (WMS) System:

Addl. Secretary informed that Monthly Progress Report is not being uploaded and updated online regularly by many states. He emphasized that this was necessary for faster availability of information and would consequently expedite release of funds and completion of projects under the scheme. If necessary, training for this purpose could be organized by the Ministry.

ii) Distribution of unspent balance of Lok Sabha Members:

The Ministry has viewed seriously the delay in distribution of uncommitted/unspent balance upto 14th Lok Sabha MPs to 15th Lok Sabha MPs. All the Distt. Authorities had been requested to complete all the works recommended upto 14th Lok Sabha within the period already stipulated in earlier circulars, and redistribute the uncommitted/unspent balance. However, the exercise has still not been completed in many states. All the Nodal Secretaries of States who have not done the distribution, were requested to complete the exercise urgently.

iii) Distribution of unspent balance of Rajya Sabha Members:

Addl. Secretary informed that in case of ex-Rajya Sabha MPs, huge amount of unspent balance is available with the States despite the provision of distribution contained in the Guidelines. The participants were requested to urgently collect the information regarding unspent /uncommitted balance of former Rajya Sabha MPs and distribute the same in accordance

with the MPLADS Guidelines and circulars issued by this Ministry in this regard.

iv) Non-furnishing of Bank details: Despite a number of reminders from the Ministry, about 140 Distt. Authorities in various States and UTs have not furnished the Bank details of MPLADS accounts required for transferring the MPLADS fund through ECS /RTGS. Addl. Secretary urged the State representatives to direct all the defaulting Distt. Authorities in their States to submit their Bank details without any further delay as no funds are being released in physical mode after **30.06.2011**.

v) Observation of NABCONS: Physical monitoring of MPLADS assets has been completed in 210 districts by NABCONS and the shortcomings observed have been communicated to the concerned districts. Some of the common shortcomings /lacunae relate to ineligible works sanctioned by the Distt. Authority, 100% advance paid to implementing agencies, not verifying the records properly in case of Societies/NGOs etc. and plaques indicating details of work and name of MP not fixed on completed works. Majority of the districts had not sent their comments thereon. The State Nodal Secretaries were asked to take up the matter with districts in their States and get the comments on the observations of NABCONS expedited.

vi) Action Taken Report on C&AG paras: Addl. Secretary expressed grave concern over non-submission of Action Taken Report on CAG paras which were forwarded to the States/ UTs in April, 2011. As Action Taken Report on Audit Paras of C&AG report is to be submitted to the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament, the urgency of sending Action Taken Report to the Ministry cannot be overemphasized. Addl. Secretary directed that all the Distt. Authorities may be asked to submit the

Action Taken Report on Audit Paras concerning them as early as possible and in any case not later than **15.09.2011**.

vii) Delay in furnishing replies on complaints by Hon'ble MPs:

Addl. Secretary also drew the attention of representatives of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan where complaints of Members of Parliament have been pending for a long time and no proper response has been received from the concerned district/State. Addl. Secretary requested all States to send the replies in a Time Bound manner, otherwise the State officials may be called for oral evidence before the Committees on MPLADS of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

viii) Relief and rehabilitation works taken up with MPLADS

fund:- The progress of completing relief and rehabilitation works in affected areas of Tsunami in southern part of India, Bihar floods, Gujarat earthquake and cyclone AILA in West Bengal was discussed with the representatives of these States. No one was present from J&K where reconstruction work has been taken up in Leh Distt. after cloudburst in August 2010. One of the major points of deliberation was the outstanding amount lying with the Govt. of Gujarat out of the funds contributed by Members of Parliament for relief /rehabilitation work in the State. The Ministry has sent several reminders to Govt. of Gujarat for sending details of the saving of **Rs. 9 crores** but no response has been received so far. The representative from Gujarat informed that the reply has been sent recently and he is carrying a copy which he will submit after this meeting. Other state representatives were also requested to complete the pending relief and rehabilitation works and send progress reports regularly.

ix) Creation of exclusive Implementation and Monitoring Cell for MPLAD Scheme in the States/UTs:-

The Addl. Secretary also urged creation of an exclusive Implementation and Monitoring Cell headed by at least Joint Secretary/Addl. Secretary level officer in the States/UTs as the administrative outlay has now been increased to 2 per cent of annual allocation from the year 2011-12 instead of 0.5 per cent contingency expenses, for proper and effective monitoring of the scheme.

x) Review of performance of States /UTs:- The Addl. Secretary also reviewed the performance of different States/UTs on various parameters like status of release and utilization of funds, outstanding paras of CAG, Constitution of State Level Monitoring Committee and Training of State/Distt. officers. The States which had not yet constituted State level Monitoring Committees, or not sent the Minutes of Meetings of the Committees and also those which had not sent proposals for training were asked to send the requisite information/proposals immediately.

Some important issues relating to States/UTs which were highlighted in the review are as follows:-

Andhra Pradesh:- Smt. B. Sandhyasri, Director informed that so far as physical progress is concerned, 98.3 per cent of recommended works have been completed. As regards the cases of Shri Y.V. Rao, Ex- M.P. and Smt. B.J. Laxmi, M.P., status /Action Taken Report of both the cases will be sent shortly.

Bihar: A number of installments due for release to various Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha MPs are pending in Bihar. Dr. B. Rajender, Secretary, Rural Works Department assured that the Distt. Authorities will be directed to

send the requisite documents for release of funds expeditiously. Regarding the pending representations of Smt. Ranjeeta Ranjan Ex-M.P (LS), Shri Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav, MP (LS) and Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, MP (LS), he informed that the cases are being examined and final replies will be sent to the Ministry.

Gujarat:- Deputy Secretary (MLP), Govt. of Gujarat informed that replies to 13 outstanding CAG paras are being collected from the districts and will be sent to the Ministry before 15.09.2011. Proposals for unspent balance of Rs. 9 crores contributed by MPs for Gujarat Earthquakes will also be submitted shortly.

Haryana: Principal Secretary, Rural Development Department informed that replies to all the 18 pending C&AG paras are being finalized and will be sent to the Ministry shortly. The unspent balance of RS/LS MPs has been distributed in the state. It was also informed that a proposal for Training of Trainers to be held at HIRD, Nilokheri is being sent to Ministry.

Jharkhand: Representations of two MPs namely Shri Yashwant Sinha (LS) and Shri S.S.Ahluwalia (RS) have been pending with the Distt. authorities for long. Shri P.Upadhyaya, Special Secretary, Rural Development Department informed that the issue of non-completion of works recommended by Shri S.S.Ahluwalia has been sorted out in a recent meeting, the minutes of which will be furnished to the Ministry.

A reply in the matter of non-execution of works recommended by Shri Yashwant Sinha will also be furnished soon.

Karnataka: Principal Secretary, Department of Planning informed that bank details for electronically transferring the funds will be sent soon in case of MPs/ constituencies for which these have not been sent yet. Monitoring Committee has been constituted in the State.

Orissa: Shri Jayant Kumar Mishra, Joint Director, Planning & Coordination Department informed that distribution of unspent balance of 14th Lok Sabha among the sitting members of 15th Lok Sabha will be completed within a week. For C&AG paras, all the concerned districts have been directed to send replies urgently.

Punjab: Special Secretary, Department of Planning informed that observations of the Ministry on replies already sent in respect of C&AG paras have been communicated to the concerned DCs and they have been asked to expedite the reply. Since the training was last conducted in the State in 2007-08, the Additional Secretary desired that further proposal for training may be submitted.

West Bengal: The Ministry had approved rehabilitation works in AILA affected districts as proposed by the State Government. However, no monthly progress report of works is being received from the concerned North and South 24 Parganas districts. This was brought to the notice of State representative. Shri K. K. Roy, Joint Secretary assured that the progress report of rehabilitation work in AILA affected areas will be sent regularly.

Xi) MPLADS Guidelines:- The representatives were also informed about the latest amendments in the MPLADS guidelines.

5. After the presentation by Addl. Secretary, Sh. Sandeep Das, Deputy Controller General of Accounts gave a Power Point presentation on Central Plan Scheme Monitoring System (CPSMS) which is being implemented by the CGA, M/o Finance to provide online information relating to funds released, utilized and remaining idle in bank accounts of implementing agencies across the country. While explaining details of the

system, the Deputy CGA pointed out that this system ensures transparency and accountability of public expenditure as the flow of funds can be traced to the last recipient. Many Central Govt. Schemes like MGNREGS, NRHM, SSA and PMGSY are being monitored through CPSMS on pilot basis in some States. The system can be immensely useful for MPLADS. When all the Distts. in the country are registered on CPSMS portal, all releases under the scheme are through ECS and bank accounts of all implementing agencies are registered on CPSMS, funds utilization by these agencies and advances given to them can be monitored effectively resulting in increased efficiency and transparency.

6. To sum up, the following directions were given to the States/UTs for compliance:-

- a)** Distribution of unspent/uncommitted balance for 14th Lok Sabha Members and former Rajya Sabha Members should be completed by States, which have not done the distribution so far, without any further delay.
- b)** Bank details for transferring the funds through ECS/RTGS may be furnished immediately by the defaulting Distt. Authorities as no funds are being released through Demand Draft after **30.06.2011**.
- c)** Monthly Progress Report reflecting the actual expenditure incurred on the recommended works should be updated regularly in the Work Monitoring System by the concerned districts.
- d)** The replies to outstanding C&AG para may be sent to the Ministry **by 15.09.2011 positively**.
- e)** All States/UTs should send the replies/Action Taken Report on the pending issues relating to representations received from MPs, Lok Sabha

and Rajya Sabha Committees and other pending representations in a Time Bound manner.

f) Relief and rehabilitation work in the areas affected by natural calamities may be expedited. State Level Monitoring Committee may be constituted in States/UTs where it has not been constituted so far and the meeting of Committee should be held at least once in a year and the Minutes forwarded to the Ministry.

g) Comments/Action Taken Reports on the findings of NABCONS may be sent to the Ministry expeditiously.

7. At the end of the meeting, DDG(PI) thanked all the participants and reiterated that the States/UTs may take Time Bound Action as per the discussions held in the meeting.
