

1.13 A compendium of instructions/clarifications – Frequently Asked Questions issued on MPLADS Guidelines

NO.C/7/2006-MPLADS

Dated: 14.12.2006

To
The Commissioners
Municipal Corporation of Kolkatta / Chennai/Delhi
District Collector / District Magistrate / Dy. Commissioner
All Districts

Sub : A Compendium on Instructions / Clarifications issued on MPLADS guidelines

Sir/Madam,

A copy of the Compendium on instructions / clarifications issued on MPLADS Guidelines is forwarded herewith for information and necessary action.

ANIL GANERIWALA
DIRECTOR (MPLADS)
MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND
PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

1. MPLADS

A COMPENDIUM ON INSTRUCTIONS / CLARIFICATIONS ISSUED ON MPLADS GUIDELINES

Clarifications issued on following paragraphs on MPLADS Guidelines:

Para 2.2 Lok Sabha Members can recommend works for their respective constituencies. Elected Members of Rajya Sabha can recommend works for implementation in one or more districts as they may choose in the State of their election. Nominated Members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha can recommend works for implementation in one or more districts anywhere in the country.

(i) Query

Can a minimum amount be fixed for each work under MPLADS as monitoring of small works spread over the entire constituency in case of Lok Sabha MPs and the entire State in case of Rajya Sabha MPs is becoming increasingly difficult.

Clarification

It will not be feasible to prescribe a lower cost ceiling for MPLADS works as many backward areas of the country may require petty works for meeting their bonafide infrastructural needs. However, the District Collector should advise the Hon'ble MP if a work is not really required or will not serve any useful purpose in a particular area. (Minutes of the Review Meeting of Madhya Pradesh held at Bhopal on 4.10.2006 – File No.C/54/2005-MPLADS)

(ii) Query

Whether Lok Sabha MPs can recommend works outside their constituencies but within the respective Districts?

Clarification

The Guidelines permit Lok Sabha MPs to recommend works only within the constituency. Works outside the constituency should not generally be taken up. However, the Guidelines have a provision under which for natural calamities, education and cultural activities, specified works can be taken up outside the constituency. (Minutes of the Review Meeting held at Thiruvananthapuram on 6.7.2006- File No. C/3/2005-MPLADS).

Para 2.5 Development of Areas inhabited by Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes: There is a greater need to develop areas inhabited by Schedule Castes (SCs) and Schedule Tribes (STs). It is necessary that special attention is given for infrastructural development of such areas. The MPs are to recommend every year such works costing at least 15% of MPLADS fund for areas inhabited by Schedule Caste population and 7.5% for areas inhabited by Schedule Tribe population. In other words, permissible works costing not less than Rs. 30 Lakh out of the annual allocation of Rs.2 Crore per MP shall be recommended for areas inhabited by SC population and Rs. 15 Lakh for areas inhabited by ST population. In case, a constituency does not have ST inhabited area, such fund may be utilized in SC inhabited areas and vice-versa. It shall be the responsibility of the District Authority to enforce this provision of the Guidelines.

(i) Query

Clarification was sought on the criteria for selection of SC and ST area and the date from which this provision in the Guidelines will become applicable. In case, the SC/ST population in a Constituency is not available and inadequate for taking up the MPLADS works, how the 22.5% funds are to be earmarked in such a situation?

Clarification

The State Government notifies the criteria on the basis of which Village, Panchayat and Municipality are declared as SC and ST areas. Therefore, the State Govt. guidelines should be followed for this purpose. The provision for earmarking funds for SC and ST area become applicable from the date of issue of new Guidelines (November, 2005). In case, any constituency does not have adequate SC/ST population, the concerned Nodal District Authority in consultation with the MP concerned should send a proposal to the Ministry seeking exemption from this clause.

(Minutes of the Review meeting of Punjab held at Chandigarh on 7.8.2006- File No.C/13/2005-MPLADS)

(ii) Query

Clarification was sought on the criteria for selection of SC & ST area. Whether the population should be 50 and more in SC and ST area for which MPs should recommend works.

Clarification

The State Govt notifies the criteria on the basis of which Village, Panchayat, Municipality are declared SC/ST area. Further, for the purpose of local bodies election, wards are notified as SC/ST wards. Therefore the State Govt. guidelines should be followed for this purpose. (Minutes of the Review Meeting held at Thiruvananthapuram on 6.7.2006-File No.C/3/2005-MPLADS)

(iii) Query

Revised Guidelines issued on 16.11.2005 provide for works upto 15% in areas inhabited by Scheduled Castes and 7.5% inhabited by Schedules Tribes. Whether this provision has to be followed with retrospective effect or from the date of issue of Revised Guidelines?

Clarification

This provision would take effect from 16.11.2005.

(Minutes of the Review Meeting held at Mumbai on 13.6.2006 – File No.C/7/2005-MPLADS)

Para -2.11 Implementing Agency: The District Authority shall identify the agency through which a particular work recommended by the MP should be executed. The executing agency so identified by the District Authority is the implementing agency. The Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) will preferably be the Implementing Agency in the rural areas and works implementation should be done through Chief Executive of the respective PRI. The Implementing Agencies in the urban areas should preferably be urban local bodies and works implementation should be done through Commissioners / Chief Executive Officers of Municipal Corporations, Municipalities. Further, the District Authority may choose either Government Department unit or Government agency or reputed Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) as capable of implementing the works satisfactorily as implementing agencies. For purposes of execution of works through Government Departments, District Authority can engage units for example, Public Health Engineering, Rural Housing, Housing Boards, Electricity Boards, and Urban Development Authorities etc, as Implementing Agencies.

(i) Query

A query was raised whether beneficiary community and local self Govt can implement MPLADS work.

Clarification

MPLADS Guidelines clearly provide that agency selection is the sole responsibility of the District Authority and if District Authority finds local self Govt and beneficiary community are competent to execute the work, the same can be entrusted.(Minutes of the Review Meeting held at Thiruvannthapuram on 6.7.2006- File onC/3/2005-MPLADS)

(ii) Query

Whether part of the work can be taken up under MPLADS? Whether parent Teacher Associations are eligible to execute the part of the work?

Clarification

The MPLADS guidelines specifically does not permit part of an incomplete work to be funded e.g. cost a roof of a building work cannot be funded under MPLADS. However the Guidelines permit convergence of multi sources funding along with MPLADS but such work should be on project mode clearly indicating source of funding. The Parent Teacher Association can be designated the Implementing Agency by the District Authority for executing any work under MPLADS. (Minutes of the Review meeting held at Thiruvananthapuram on 6.7.2006-File No.C/3/2005-MPLADS)

Para -3.1 Each MP Shall recommend eligible works on MP's letter head duly signed. A letter format form the MP to the District Authority is at Annex -III. Recommendations by representative(s) of

1. MPLADS

MPs are not admissible.

(i) Query

Since Hon'ble Members of Parliament recommend works of their own choice, many a times need based works are neglected. Can a shelf of projects be prepared by the District Authority and furnished to Hon'ble MPs who may recommend works from among the shelf of works. Alternatively, Hon'ble MPs may recommend works from the list of perspective plan of the District.

Clarifications

This issue has been discussed on various fora including with Committees of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on MPLADS. Hon'ble MPs have the full authority to select the works of their choice provided these are eligible under the Guidelines. However, the District Authority may use his good offices and informally advise the Hon'ble MPs to select works from the list included in the shelf of projects or perspective plan of the district.

(Minutes of the Review Meeting of Madhya Pradesh held at Bhopal on 4.10.2006- File No.C/54/2005-MPLADS)

Para-3.6 The District Authority should get in advance a firm commitment about the operation, upkeep and maintenance of the proposed asset from the User Agency concerned before the execution of the work is sanctioned.

Query

The MPLADS is 100 per cent funded by Government of India. The request was to include operation and maintenance cost under MPLADS.

Clarification

MPLADS is fully funded scheme of the Government of India. The scheme assists the State Govt. in the creation of community assets. The issue of operation and maintenance cost which is a recurring expenditure has been discussed in different fora. The operation and maintenance cost of the assets normally is the responsibility of the owners/users. The District Authority has to finalise the work sanction only after ensuring the operation and maintenance of the asset to be created under the Scheme. Hence, the operation and maintenance of assets do not come under the purview of the MPLADS.(Minutes of the Review meeting held at Thiruvananthapuram on 6.7.2006 – File No.C/3/2005-MPLADS)

Para -3.8 If the estimated amount for a work is more than the amount indicated by the MP for the same, MP's further consent is necessary before the sanction is accorded.

Query

Whether the total expenditure can exceed the estimated amount for a sanctioned work? Would it be permissible under MPLADS?

Clarification

The expenditure for sanctioned works takes place on the basis of preparation and sanction of estimates and final contract amount arrived at as per the State Govt procedure. If the final contract amount and expenditure for sanctioned works exceed the sanctioned amount, the same shall be informed to the MPs concerned clearly indicating the reasons. The MPs concerned shall consider and sanction additional funds. In case the MP concerned is dead or resigns, the successor MP shall be requested to whether he would like to recommend additional funds. If recommended, the sanctioned work shall be executed accordingly.

(Minutes of the Review Meeting held at Thiruvananthapuram on 6.7.2006-File No.C/3/2005-MPLADS)

Para -3.11 All works for which recommendations are received the office of the District Authority till the last date of the term of the MP are to be executed, provided these are as per norms and within the entitlement of MPLADS funds of the MP. Such works cannot be changed by MP even if the MP is reelected. It shall be the responsibility of the Nodal District Authority to scrutinize all

such recommended works within 45 days of the last date of the term of office of the MP either to accord necessary sanction as per the guidelines, or to intimate the outgoing/former MP about the rejection with reasons.

Query

How to deal with cases where an MP has recommended a work before his retirement and the cost estimates of the same has exceeded the recommended amount?

Clarification

In such cases, the District Authority should request the successor MP to give his consent for the additional amount from his MPLADS fund. If the successor MP does not agree for the additional amount, the work should not be sanctioned and the unspent balance should be reported to the State Govt. for distribution among the successor MPs. (Minutes of the Review Meeting of Madhya Pradesh held at Bhopal on 4.10.2006 – File No. C/54/2005-MPLADS)

Para -3.12 On receipt of the recommendation from the MP, the District Authority should verify the eligibility and technical feasibility of each recommended work. All such eligible works should be sanctioned within 45 days from the date of receipt of recommendation. In case of delay due to genuine reasons, a clarification for delay should be incorporated in the sanction letter. The same may be intimated to the MP and State/UT Government. If a recommended work is not eligible or not feasible, the District Authority shall intimate the same with reasons to the MP concerned, the Government of India and State / UT Government.

Query

More time may be given for preparation and sanction of work estimate.

Clarification

The guideline permit estimate preparation and sanction of the work within a stipulated time schedule. This should be adhered to as it would improve efficiency of the district authority (Minutes of the Review Meeting held at Thiruvananthapuram on 6.7.2006- File No.C/3/2005-MPLADS)

Para – 3.18 The MPs concerned can recommend the use of MPLADS funds towards the State Government share in a Centrally Sponsored scheme being implemented in their constituencies, provided the works under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme are permissible under MPLADS.

(i) Query

Construction of roads is taken up on a large scale from the funds under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). In order to avoid duplication and more efficient utilization of MPLADS funds, construction of earthen roads especially in the districts covered under PMGSY should be prohibited under MPLADS.

Clarifications

MPLADS funds can be used for construction of earthen roads and the black topping of such roads can be made by Utilizing funds of PMGSY. This dovetailing of funds would help in creating much needed all season road net work in the rural areas. (Minutes of the Review Meeting of Madhya Pradesh held at Bhopal on 4.10.2006-File No.C/54/2005-MPLADS)

(ii) Query

Since the construction of Primary Schools is covered under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, MPLADS fund should be utilised for construction of class rooms /school buildings for Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools only.

Clarification

MPLADS funds are an additionality to the on-going programmes and schemes of the Central and State Govt. and are meant to fill infrastructural gaps wherever these exist, on the recommendation of the Hon'ble MPs. The condition of primary schools in the country is far from satisfactory. If some

1. MPLADS

basic facilities like safe drinking water, bathroom /toilets, playgrounds etc. are not adequate, MPLADS funds may be used to supplement funds available under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan to create better infrastructural facilities in primary schools. (Minutes of the Review Meeting of Madhya Pradesh held at Bhopal on 4.10.2006 – File No. C/54/2005-MPLADS).

Para 3.20 There are Central and State Government schemes which provide for the public and community contribution. MPLADS funds shall not be used to substitute the public and community contribution in any Central/State Government programme / Scheme, which includes a component of such contribution.

Query

Can MPLADS funds be utilised for substitution of public contribution as required under some of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes?

Clarification

As per para 3.20 of MPLADS Guidelines, MPLADS fund cannot be used for substitution of public/community contribution in any Central/ State Government Programme /Scheme, which includes a component of such contribution. (Minutes of the Review Meeting of Madhya Pradesh held at Bhopal on 4.10.2006-File No.C/54/2005-MPLADS)

Para 3.21 Community infrastructure and public utility building works are also permissible for registered Societies /Trusts under the scheme, provided that the Society /Trust is engaged in the social service /Welfare activity and has been in existence for the preceding three years. The existence of the Society/Trust shall be reckoned from the date it started its activities in the field, or the date of registration under the relevant Registration Act, whichever is later. The beneficiary Society /Trust shall be a well established, public spirited, non profit making entity, enjoying a good reputation in the area. Whether such as society /Trust is well reputed or not, should be decided by the District Authority concerned on the basis of relevant factors, like performance in the field of social service, welfare activities, non profit orientation of its activities, transparency of its activities and sound financial position. The ownership of the land may remain with the Society/Trust, but the structure constructed with MPLADS funds shall be the property of State / UT Government. The Society / Trust shall under take to operate, maintain and up keep at its cost the asset created under MPLADS. If at any time, it is found that the asset created with MPLADS funds is not being used for the purpose for which the asset was funded, the State/UT Government may take over the asset and proceed to recover from the Society/Trust, the cost incurred from MPLADS for the creation of asset along with interest at the rate of 18% per annum calculated with effect from the date of use of MPLADS fund for the works concurred. A formal agreement (a model agreement form is at Annex-V) will be executed by the Society /Trust with the District Authority in favour of the Government in advance for the purpose. This agreement will be registered under the relevant Registration Act on a nonjudicial stamp paper of Rs. 10 or more, as is applicable in the State /UT. No stamp duty would be required to be paid for registration as there is no formal transfer of assets. Not more than Rs. 25 Lakh can be spent from MPLADS fund for one or more works of a particular Society /Trust. If a Society has availed of the MPLADS funds upto Rs. 25 Lakh, no more work can be recommended for that Society/ Trust under the Scheme. The MPLADS funding is not permissible to a Society /Trust, if the recommending MP or any of his/her family members is the President / Chairman or Member of the Managing Committee or Trustee of the registered Society/ Trust in question. Family members would include MP and MP's Spouse which would comprise of their parents, brothers and sisters, children, grand children and their spouses and their in – laws.

Query

There are proposals for Society and Trust from the MPs for works costing more than Rs. 25.Lakhs prior to the enforcement of revised Guidelines. What would be the fate of such proposals?

Clarification

Recently, clarifications were issued in a circular indicating that if a proposal from any MP for work

for a Society /Trust was received by the District Authority before November 2005 (the date of issue of new MPLADS Guidelines) the proposal should be sent with details as per check list included in the circular to the Ministry for consideration. However with effect from November 2005 work up to Rs. 25 Lakh only for a Society /Trust is permissible. Work above Rs. 25 Lakh is not permissible. The Guidelines are very clear in this regard. (Minutes of the Review Meeting held at Thiruvananthapuram on 6.7.2006-File No.C/3/2005-MPLADS)

Para 4.8 In respect of elected Members of Rajya Sabha, the balance of funds (funds not committed for the recommended and sanctioned works) left in the Nodal District by the predecessor Members in a particular State will be equally distributed by the State Government among the successor elected Rajya Sabha Members in that State.

However, the unspent balance of former Rajya Sabha MPs from 1993-94 to 2004-05, if not already distributed, will be equally distributed among the sitting Rajya Sabha Members of the States concerned.

Query

How and who will distribute the unspent balance of former Rajya Sabha MPs?

Clarification

Para 4.8 of the Revised Guidelines is relevant in this regard according to which " In respect of elected Members of Rajya Sabha, the balance of funds (funds not committed for the recommended and sanctioned works) left in the Nodal District by the predecessor Members in a particular State will be equally distributed by the State Government among the successor elected Rajya Sabha Members in that State. However, the unspent balance of former Rajya Sabha MPs from 1993-94 to 2004-05, if not already distributed, will be equally distributed among the sitting Rajya Sabha Members of the States concerned. The State Govt. will have to issue orders in this regard after obtaining details of unspent balance of former Rajya Sabha MPs from their respective Nodal Districts.

(Minutes of the Review Meeting of Haryana held at Chandigarh on 7.8.2006 – File No. C/10/2005-MPLADS)

Para 4.15 The District Authority may release advance up to 50% of the estimated amount of a sanctioned work to an Implementing Agency. On the basis of the physical and financial report furnished by the implementing Agency, the District Authority can release the remaining funds when 60% of the advance has been utilised.

1. Query

The Guidelines provide for release of 50% of the funds at the time of sanction. This is creating lot of administrative problem especially in case of small works costing Rs. 15,000-20,000. Can the district authority release 100% funds to the implementing agencies in such cases?

Clarification

The provision of 50% of funds to the Implementing Agency at the times of sanction has been kept in the Guidelines to enable the District Authority to sanction works of the total entitlement of Rs.2 Crore of an MP in the beginning of the year itself on receiving Rs.1 Crore from the Govt. of India as first instalment. As such, the existing provision cannot be changed.

(Minutes of the Review Meeting of Punjab held at Chandigarh on 7.8.2006-File No. C/13/2005/MPLADS)

(ii) Query

Whether advance payment can be made as per State Government policy of 20% or 40% or as per MPLADS Guidelines (50%)?

Clarification

Advance can be given to the implementing agency upto 50% of the cost of sanctioned work.

1. MPLADS

(Minutes of the Review meeting held at Thiruvananthapuram on 6.7.2006- File No. C/3/2005-MPLADS)

Para – 4.17 Contingency Expenses: The District Authority can utilize up to 0.5% of the amount spent on completed projects in a year under MPLADS as 'contingency expenses' on the items like (i) Purchase of Stationery; (ii) Office equipment including computer (excluding laptop); (iii) Telephone/fax charges, postal charges; and (iv) Expenses incurred (a) to make MPLADS works monitoring software operational and (b) to get the audit certificate and audit of the accounts. This amount must not be used for meeting the cost of items like (a) Purchase of any type for office furniture; vehicles; air-conditioners, refrigerators etc. and (b) Renovation and maintenance of office building. A separate account for such expenditure incurred during a year under MPLAD scheme shall be maintained and MP concerned shall be kept informed besides making available the details for scrutiny by audit.

(i) Query

Can office equipments such as inverter be purchased by the Districts from 0.5% Contingency as the power supply in some districts is very erratic and hampers the smooth running of computers?

Clarification

UPS is a computer accessory and can be purchased from 0.5% Contingency. Small capacity invertors can also be purchased from this fund to facilitate smooth computerization for MPLADS.

(Minutes of the Review Meeting of Punjab held at Chandigarh on 7.8.2006-File No.C/13/2005-MPLADS)

(ii) Query

Volume of work under MPLADS has increased tremendously. About 200-250 works are sanctioned and executed each year in case of every MP. Due to inadequate technical staff, the proposals, estimates, design, drawing etc. are not properly examined. This is adversely affecting the quality of works. Can additional staff be engaged on contract basis utilizing MPLADS funds?

Clarification

0.5% Contingency Expenditure under the Scheme can be Utilised for operationalisation of MPLADS works Monitoring Software by engaging private vendors on job contract basis. MPLADS funds cannot be utilised for engaging any technical staff. Adequate staff support has to be provided by the respective State Govts. (Minutes of the Review Meeting of Madhya Pradesh held at Bhopal on 4.10.2006- File No. C/54/2005-MPLADS)

(iii) Query

Centage Charges are not allowed in the Guidelines. Some of the implementing agencies are not willing to take up MPLADS work if centage /overhead charges are not met from MPLADS fund.

Clarification

Funds under the MPLADS are allotted to the District Authorities as 100% Grant-in-Aid without any share of the State Government and are meant for creating durable community assets. Centage charges for the Executing Agencies cannot be met from these funds. (Minutes of the Review Meeting held at Mumbai on 13.6.2006-File No.C/7/2005-MPLADS)

(iv) Query

There is no funding for supervision, travel, vehicle purchase and maintenance of vehicle under MPLADS. There was a request to issue guidelines under MPLADS to incur/include such expenditures.

Clarification

MPLADS being a 100% funded scheme for capital expenditure, expenses like travel expenses, administrative charges, fuel for the vehicle, purchase of vehicle etc. come within the purview of the State Govt and therefore the MPLADS does not fund the same. (Minutes of the Review Meeting held at Thiruvananthapuram on 6.7.2006- File No.C/3/2005-MPLADS)

(v) Query

Clarification was sought to include purchase of vehicle, salary of the staff involved for the Scheme from the contingent expenditure of 0.5% of MPLADS fund. Further, it was requested to increase contingent expenditure of 0.5% to 1%.

Clarification

The type of contingency expenditure has been clearly indicated in the Guidelines. The works involved in the administrative and supervision of the MPLADS works does not amount to much additional work. Therefore, such expenditure is to be borne by the State Govt with the existing staff and within the existing State Govt supervision mechanism. MPLADS is a scheme for creation of community infrastructure and using more of the MPLADS fund towards contingency expenditure is opposed by the MPs. Therefore, it is not possible to modify the nature of contingency expenses and per cent thereof. (Minutes of the Review Meeting held at Thiruvananthapuram on 6.7.2006 – File No. C/3/2005-MPLADS)

(vi) Query

There is an acute shortage of staff at the state level which has become more serious in the light of revised Guidelines where the State Nodal Department has been entrusted with greater responsibilities in terms of monitoring and reviewing of the scheme implementation. Can part of 0.5% contingency expenditure meant for District Authorities be used for recruiting staff on contract basis to strengthen the state nodal agency?

Clarification

Works under MPLADS substitute for development works of the State Government for which expenditure would otherwise have been incurred from the State Budget. It would, therefore, be appropriate that overhead /establishment expenses for the State Nodal Department is borne by the respective State /UT Governments. (Minutes of the Review Meeting held at Mumbai on 13.6.2006 –File No. C/7/2005-MPLADS)

(vii) Query

Can the District Authority use its discretion for utilizing 0.5% Contingency Expenditure, i.e. for items other than listed in the Guidelines such as POL charges for touring /inspection of works, engagement of staff on contract basis etc.

Clarification

The list of items on which 0.5% Contingency Expenditure can be spent is already prescribed in the Guidelines and it cannot be relaxed further. The physical inspection of MPLADS works can be undertaken by the District Authority along with other routine inspections.

(Minutes of the Review Meeting held at Mumbai on 13.6.2006- File No. C/7/2005-MPLADS)

Para – 4.18 Administrative and centage charges: The District Authority and Implementing Agencies shall not levy any administrative charges, centage, salary of any person, travel cost etc. for their services in respect of preparatory work, implementation and supervision of projects/ works under MPLADS.

The District Authority shall not charge any administrative expenses for the MPLADS works.

Query

Projects for electrification of rural areas are not being taken up due to bar in the Guidelines for payment of Administrative Charges to Electricity Boards which are autonomous bodies and charge 5% supervision Charges for executing any electricity project. Suitable provision in the Guidelines for this purpose are required.

1. MPLADS

Clarification

Durable community assets are created out of MPLADS fund for which the State Govt. would have otherwise spent its own resources. It would thus be proper on the part of State Govt. either to waive off the Administrative / Supervision charges by the various line departments by issuing a Govt. Order specifically for MPLADS works, or to meet these charges from its own resources. (Minutes of the review Meeting of Madhya Pradesh held at Bhopal on 4.10.2006 – File No. C/54/2005-MPLADS)

Para- 6.3(i) The Nodal Department will be responsible for coordination with the Ministry and proper and effective supervision of the MPLADS implementation in the State. To this effect a committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary / Development Commissioner/ Additional Chief Secretary should review MPLADS implementation progress with the District Authorities and MPs at least once in a year. The Nodal Department Secretary and other Administrative Department Secretaries should also participate in such meetings.

Query

Under the new Guidelines, an elaborate role has been assigned to the State Nodal Department and District Authority for monitoring and review of the Scheme on a regular basis. However, no financial support is provided for this purpose. Ministry may consider allocating a reasonable percentage of total funds under the Scheme to strengthen the monitoring mechanism at the State and District level.

Clarification

MPLADS is 100% Grant-in-aid provided by the Government of India without any matching share from the State Government and is used for creating durable community infrastructure assets for the State. It is the responsibility of the State Govt. and the District Administration to utilise its resources for effective monitoring and review of the Scheme. 0.5% Contingency Expenditure under the Scheme has been provided to strengthen the District Administration with office equipment, stationery and operationalisation of MPLADS Works Monitoring Software. Government of India has already provided computers to State Nodal Departments and is planning to provide other office equipment during the current year. (Minutes of the Review Meeting of Madhya Pradesh held at Bhopal on 4.10.2006- File No. C/54/2005-MPLADS)

Para Item No. 8 of Annexure –11 of MPLADS Guidelines prohibit “Purchase of all movable items except vehicles, earth movers and equipments meant for hospital, educational, sports, drinking water and sanitation purposes belonging to Central, State, UT and Local Self Governments. “(This will be subject to 10 % of the Capital Cost of the work for which such items are proposed).

Query

Clarification was sought as to how the ceiling of 10 % for movable items has to be arrived at? In other words, whether for existing Government hospitals and school buildings etc., Vehicles or equipments can be purchased from MPLADS fund without any corresponding costs on the capital assets.

Clarification

Whenever an MP recommends a new proposal for capital works as well as movable assets for any Govt. Hospital, educational, sports, drinking water and sanitation purposes, the cost of movable items should not exceed 10% of the total cost. However, for any existing Govt. hospital, school, and sports, drinking water and sanitation work, etc. movable items can be recommended / sanctioned separately without any corresponding capital expenditure, in which case the ceiling of 10% does not apply. (Minutes of the Review Meeting held at Mumbai on 13.6.2006 – File No. C/7/2005-MPLADS)

Para Point No. 7 of the list of prohibited items under the Scheme, it is mentioned that “Assets to be named after any person”.

(i) Query

Many MPs are recommending works for institutions named after individuals. Clarification was sought as to whether such works can be taken up ?

Clarification

Eligible works can be taken up from MPLADS funds for already existing institutions named after eminent persons. However, no asset created by MPLADS fund can be named after any individual. As an illustration, it was mentioned that in case of already existing hospital named after any national or state level leader, an OPD block in the same hospital can be sanctioned from MPLADS funds. However, the OPD block thus created would not be separately named after any individual. (Minutes of the Review Meeting of Haryana held at Chandigarh on 7.8.2006 – File No. C/10/2005-MPLADS)

MISCELLANEOUS QUERIES**(i) Query**

Whether construction of Railway over-bridge / under-bridge will be permissible under this Scheme?

Clarification

Railway over bridge/under-bridge is eligible. However, District Authority is to take a decision keeping in view the necessity and feasibility of the specific work. (Minutes of the Review Meeting held at Thiruvananthapuram on 6.7.2006 –File No. C/3/2005-MPLADS)

(ii) Query

Whether computer can be purchased for MPLADS works in the districts?

Clarification

Computer can be purchased under Para 4.17 of the Guidelines for carrying out works of MPLADS. However laptops are not permissible. (Minutes of the Review Meeting held at Thiruvananthapuram on 6.7.2006-File No. C/3/2005-MPLADS)

(iii) Query

Whether movable items including Audio Visual kit can be purchased under MPLADS?

Clarification

Point 8 in the Annex-II to the Guidelines provides the types of movable items permissible under MPLADS. (Minutes of the Review Meeting held at Thiruvananthapuram on 6.7.2006-File No. C/3/2005-MPLADS)

(IV) Query

There was a request not to permit small works below Rs. 3 lakhs.

Clarification

Such a provision will not be possible since MPs may recommend work which are less than Rs.3 Lakh. (Minutes of the Review Meeting held at Thiruvananthapuram on 6.7.2006-File No. C/3/2005-MPLADS)

GENERAL CIRCULARS ISSUED AFTER RELEASE OF NEW GUIDELINES ON 16.11.2005**(i) Query**

Whether desilting of ponds, rivers, tanks, etc., and strengthening of embankments and widening/ deepening of channels, canals, lakes, etc can be undertaken from MPLADS Funds.

Clarification

As per the MPLADS Guidelines, all maintenance works of any type are prohibited under the Scheme. Being a periodical repair and maintenance activity, desilting of ponds, rivers, tanks, canals, etc., are to be treated as maintenance works and therefore cannot be permitted under MPLADS. It is

1. MPLADS

also clarified that 'strengthening of embankments' and 'widening of channels and canals', can be permitted under the scheme subject to the condition that the works done under these categories are durable and a one time activity i.e. only " pucca" brick and stone-lining. A circular in this regard has been issued by the Ministry vide Order No. C/07/2006-MPLADS dated 21.8.2006 (Annex-1). (Minutes of the Review Meeting held at Mumbai on 13.6.2006-File No. C/7/2005-MPLADS)

(ii) Query

Whether advance sanctions to works can be given before the commencement of the financial year before even physical availability of funds.

Clarification

Advance action to sanction works up to the entitlement of the MP for that year can be taken. The work sanction can be issued after 1st April of the financial year, subject to the continuance of the MPLAD Scheme in the year and the budget for the year as been passed by Parliament. A circular in this regard has been issued by the Ministry vide Order No.C/07/2006-MPLADS dated 8/5/2006 (Annex-II) (Minutes of the Review Meeting held at Mumbai on 13.6.2006-File No. C/7/2005-MPLADS)

(iii) Query

The revised MPLADS Guidelines from November, 2005 provides for provision up computers only to Government schools and libraries and not to private schools. Clarifications have been sought as to whether government-aided schools and government – aided libraries can also be provided computers.

Clarification

It is clarified that provision of computers to Govt as well as Government – aided educational institutions and Govt. and Govt-aided libraries is permissible under the MPLADS Scheme. A circular in this regard has been issued by the Ministry vide Order No. C/07/2006-MPLADS dated 7/9/2006 (Annex-III) (Minutes of the Review Meeting held at Mumbai on 13.6.2006-File No. C/7/2005-MPLADS)