



## Conclusion

The MPLADS, a Plan Scheme fully funded by the Government of India, aims at enabling Members of Parliament (MPs) to cater to local requirements through the creation of assets in their respective constituencies. However, implementation of the Scheme was marked by various serious shortcomings and lapses. The expenditure under the Scheme as per data available increased in periods close to elections, and in the intervening period, funds were allowed to accumulate.

The execution of substantial number of inadmissible works by the DAs on MP's recommendations indicates inadequate systemic arrangement for ensuring effective use of funds for creation of community based assets.

The implementation of works was further characterised by delays, non-adherence to the rules/guidelines, unfruitful expenditure, abandonment of works or non-utilisation, poor maintenance and misuse of assets created.

The State Governments have a limited role in implementation of the Scheme and the responsibility for monitoring its execution by District Authorities lies primarily with the Ministry. The Ministry, however, failed to obtain and analyse basic records such as the Utilisation Certificates and audited accounts received from District Authorities. The database on the progress of the Scheme available with the Ministry and uploaded by DAs was incomplete, out-of-date and characterised by numerous discrepancies and omissions, making it of little use in the monitoring of the Scheme.

The District Authorities are responsible for implementing the Scheme but are not accountable to an immediate monitoring authority. At the same time, the Ministry has the responsibility for Scheme monitoring but without the requisite authority to enforce compliance. Effective arrangements to ensure accountability of the DAs towards State Nodal Department in respect of execution of works have not been defined under the Scheme Guidelines. Monitoring of the Scheme by the State Government remained limited to the annual meetings of Monitoring Committee under chairmanship of Chief Secretary, which too were either not held or not held regularly in many States/UTs. It is pertinent to note that in response to most of the audit findings on shortcomings in execution of works, the Ministry has stated that information would be obtained from respective DAs for further action. This

indicated not only lack of ownership but also absence of a robust monitoring framework.

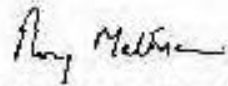
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Conclusion

Many of the systemic weaknesses affecting the implementation of the MPLADS had been persisting since its inception 17 years ago. The lapses were brought to the notice of the Ministry by the CAG in two earlier performance audit reports (1998 and 2001). Submission of ATNs (Action Taken Notes) on the Report of 2001 after a lapse of eight years (2009) speaks volumes about the monitoring methods.

Given that many of these weaknesses noted in this audit have been persisting over the years notwithstanding the corrective actions confirmed by the Ministry in the ATNs, any drastic improvement in implementation of the scheme appears unlikely. It is thus recommended that the Ministry should carefully review and evaluate the benefits of the scheme, keeping in view its objectives, operational guidelines, actual implementation and our recommendations in this Report for taking a view regarding continued implementation of the Scheme.

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