



## MPLAD Scheme

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### Why in News

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Recently, funds from **Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)** were disbursed to the village panchayats of Goa.

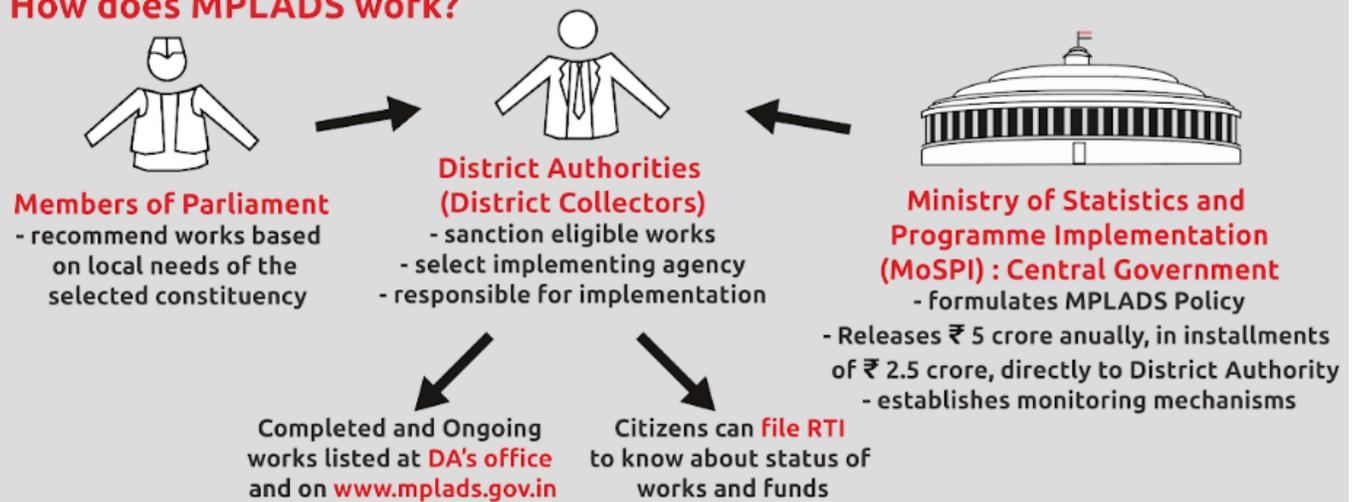
Due to Covid-19 pandemic **MPLAD Funds Scheme is currently suspended** and the disbursed funds were allocated earlier.

### Key Points

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- **About:**
  - MPLAD is a **Central Sector Scheme** which was announced in December 1993.
  - Initially, it came under the control of the Ministry of Rural Development. Later, in October 1994, it was transferred to the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.**
- **Functioning:**
  - Each year, MPs receive **Rs. 5 crore in two instalments of Rs. 2.5 crore each.** Funds under MPLADS are **non-lapsable.**
  - Lok Sabha MPs have to **recommend the district authorities** projects in their Lok Sabha constituencies, while **Rajya Sabha MPs** have to spend it in the **state that has elected** them to the House.
  - Nominated Members of both the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha can **recommend works anywhere in the country.**

## How does MPLADS work?



- **Priority Projects:**

- The projects include assets building such as drinking water facilities, primary education, public health sanitation and roads.
- Since June 2016, the MPLAD funds can also be used for implementation of the schemes such as **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan**, **Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan)**, conservation of water through rain water harvesting and **Sansad Aadarsh Gram Yojana**, etc.

- **Criticism:**

- **Implementation Lapses:** The **Comptroller and Auditor-General of India (CAG)** has flagged instances of financial mismanagement and artificial inflation of amounts spent.
- **No Statutory Backing:** The scheme is not governed by any statutory law and is subject to the whims and fancies of the government of the day.
- **Monitoring and Regulation:** The scheme was launched for promoting participatory development but there is no indicator available to measure level of participation.
- **Breach of Federalism:** MPLADS encroaches upon the domain of local self governing institutions and thereby **violates Part IX and IX-A of the Constitution.**
- **Conflict with Doctrine of Separation of Powers:** MPs are getting involved in executive functions.

- **Debate over Constitutionality:**

- **National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution, 2002:** Recommended immediate discontinuation of the MPLAD scheme on the ground that it was inconsistent with the **spirit of federalism and distribution of powers** between the centre and the state.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Administrative Reforms Commission's report on "Ethics in Governance", 2005:** Opined that it seriously erodes the notion of separation of powers, as the legislator directly becomes the executive.
- **Supreme Court Judgement, 2010:** A five-judge bench of the Supreme Court ruled that there was **no violation of the concept of separation of powers** because the role of an MP in this case is recommendatory and the **actual work is carried out by the Panchayats and Municipalities** which belong to the executive organ.

**Source: PIB**