



MLA-LAD Scheme

 drishtias.com/printpdf/mla-lad-scheme

Why in News

Recently, **Rajasthan** Government has approved a proposal **to provide Rs. 3 crore each** from the **MLA Local Area Development (LAD) Fund** to mobilise resources for **Covid-19 Vaccination** of the people in the age group of 18 to 44 years.

For meeting the expenses, the **fund for each legislator** has been increased **from Rs. 2.25 crore to Rs. 5 crore a year.**

Key Points

- **Members of Legislative Assembly Local Area Development (MLA-LAD) Scheme:**
 - It is the **States' version of a central government scheme - Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLAD).**
 - The **objective** of this scheme is **to create local need based infrastructure, to create assets of public utility and to remove regional imbalances** in development.
 - This scheme is **implemented in rural areas as well as urban areas** of a state.
 - **MLAs do not receive any money** under this scheme. The government **transfers it directly to the respective local authorities.**
 - **The legislators can only recommend works** in their constituencies based on a set of guidelines.
 - **Amounts per MLA varies** across the states. Delhi has the highest allocation under MLALAD; each MLA can recommend works for up to Rs. 10 crore each year.
 - The **guidelines** for use of MLA-LAD funds **differ across states.**
 - **For example, Delhi MLAs** can recommend the operation of fogging machines (to contain dengue mosquitoes), installation of CCTV cameras etc.
 - After the legislators give the list of developmental works, they are executed by the district authorities as per the government's financial, technical and administrative rules.

- **Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLAD):**
 - It is a **Central Sector Scheme**.
 - It was **announced in December 1993** and initially 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**.
 - **Each year, MPs receive Rs. 5 crore** in two instalments of **Rs. 2.5 crore each**. **Funds** under MPLAD Scheme are **non-lapsable**.
 - **Objective:**
 - To enable MPs to recommend works of developmental nature with emphasis on the creation of durable community assets based on the locally felt needs to be taken up in their Constituencies.
 - **Lok Sabha Members** can recommend works within their constituencies and elected Members of **Rajya Sabha** can recommend works within the State they are elected from.
 - **Nominated Members** of both the **Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha** can **recommend** works anywhere **in the country**.
 - To create **durable assets of national priorities** viz. drinking water, primary education, public health, sanitation and roads, etc.
 - 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.
 - The Union Cabinet has given its nod to the **temporary suspension of MPLAD Funds** during 2020-21 and 2021-22 in view of the adverse impact of the outbreak of Covid-19 in India.
 - **Criticism:**
 - It is **inconsistent with the spirit of the Constitution** as it co-opts legislators into executive functioning.
 - The second criticism stems from **allegations of corruption** associated with allocation of works.

Source: TH