

Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme

Exploring opportunities with emphasis on Jharkhand

Introduction

The Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) enables Members of Parliament (MPs) to recommend development-related works based on the local needs of their constituencies. The scheme lays emphasis on the creation of durable community assets of national priority such as drinking water, primary education, public health, sanitation and roads, among others. The scheme is fully funded by the Government of India and allocates a sum of Rs. 5 crore per annum to each MP.

The programme is implemented and monitored by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) along with the State Nodal Departments and District Authorities.

Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation

Policy formulation, release of funds, monitoring mechanism

State Nodal Department

Supervision, monitoring and coordination with the districts and other Line Departments.

District Authorities

Report the status of MPLADS implementation to the GoI & State Nodal Department

Procedure for Members of Rajya Sabha

- Recommendation of Works:** Elected Parliamentarians from the Rajya Sabha can recommend works within their state of election, whereas Nominated members of the Rajya Sabha can recommend works anywhere in the country.
- Nodal District:** Rajya Sabha members can choose any district in their state of election as the **Nodal District** and inform their choice to MoSPI, the State Government and the District Magistrate of the chosen district.
- Nature of Work:** All works under MPLADS are required to meet local infrastructure and development needs, with an emphasis on the creation of durable assets in the constituency. The recommendations should be in keeping with the MPLADS guidelines, excluding the works prohibited under the guidelines such as maintenance, renovation or repair work, construction of official and residential buildings, acquisition of land assets for individual benefit, works within places of religious worship and works in unauthorized colonies and so on.
- Timeline:** The work undertaken under MPLADS shall be completed within 18 months from the date of demitting office, in case of Rajya Sabha MPs.

Works Permitted under MPLADS

In order to ensure a streamlined monitoring mechanism, the MPLADS guidelines have listed ten priority sectors under which projects can be initiated. They further provide an indicative list of works under each priority sector. However, the list is not exhaustive in nature and the MPs can take up any work, as long as it meets the central objective of the scheme and is not prohibited under the guidelines.



Education



Drinking Water



Electricity



Non-conventional Energy Sources



Health & Family Welfare



Sanitation & Public Health



Irrigation



Roads, Pathways & Bridges



Sports



Animal Care

‘One MP – One Idea’

The scheme recognizes the need to foster innovation and development for addressing local requirements and arriving at sustainable and scalable solutions. In order to do so, the guidelines suggest the ‘One MP-One Idea’ competition to seek ideas that have the potential to solve challenges.

The competition may be held annually within each Lok Sabha Constituency. Based on innovative ideas received from local residents regarding development projects, three best innovations are selected for cash prizes, while the next five are awarded a certificate of appreciation.

The competition focuses on the areas of education, skill development, health, water and sanitation, housing and infrastructure, agriculture, energy, environment, community and social service, among others. Any individual, group of individuals, industry consortia, academia, NGO(s) or other institution from the constituency can participate in the competition.

The Nodal District Authority is responsible for conducting and campaigning for the competition. However, the competition is to be conducted only on the request of the MP.



Drinking Water

- Installation of rainwater harvesting systems in Government buildings and public places.
- Installation of Tube wells, Water Tanks, Hand Pumps, Water Tankers.
- Installation of Piped Drinking Water Supply
- New borings in lieu of the existing non-functional hand-pumps using the re-usable components of the hand pumps.



Health & Family Welfare

- Construction of buildings for hospitals, family welfare centers, public health care centers, ANM centers
- Procurement of hospital equipments for Govt. hospitals and dispensaries.
- Purchase of medical equipment & ambulances for governments.
- Construction of creches and aanganwadis.
- Construction of blood bank building.



Education

- Purchase of books for schools, colleges, and public library (upto Rs. 22 lakh)
- Purchase of computers for Government and Government aided schools.
- Purchase of Visual Display Units for Government and government aided schools.
- Purchase of mobile library .



Sports

- Constructing buildings for sports activities, physical training institutions, and multi-gym.
- Purchase of equipment for multi-gyms, sports.
- Installing fixed garden gym machines
- Laying of Synthetic hockey and football turfs.
- Construction of sports facilities at the block/village level



Sanitation & Public Health

- Construction of Drains and gutters for public drainage
- Construction of Public toilets and bathrooms
- Construction of garbage collection and night soil disposal Systems, earth movers including vehicles for local bodies



Other Public Facilities

- Construction of community centers, shelters for natural calamities.
- Construction of public libraries and reading rooms
- Construction of pedestrian ways, community toilets and non-motorized vehicle lanes.
- Procurement of Battery operated buses and hearses.

Figure: Suggested works under the key sectors of MPLADS

In addition to the aforementioned sectors and works, the Guidelines also suggest additional works of public importance, which the MPs can recommend under the Scheme.



Construction of **Railway Halt Station** and installation of firmly fixed waiting chairs at railway stations



Assistance to **Bar Associations** and Bar Association libraries



Providing **CCTV Camera System** for security surveillance at strategic locations



Installation of **bio-digesters** developed by DRDO at railway stations, coaches, schools, health centers



Providing **Fixed Weighing Scale Machine** for agricultural and horticultural produce at the village level



Installation of **Rainwater Harvesting Systems** in government buildings and public places belonging to the Government



Construction of shelters for imparting training for **skill development**

The following works are **not** permitted under the MPLADS Guidelines.

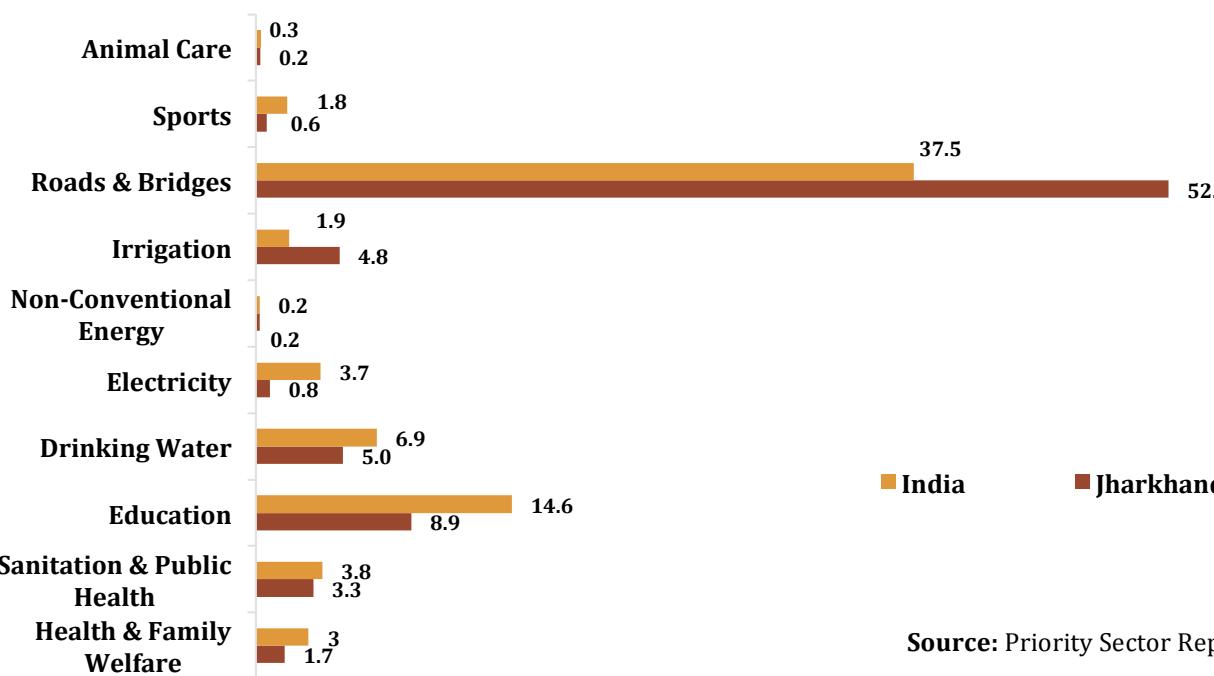
- Construction of office and residential buildings belonging to Central and State Governments, their Departments, Government Agencies/Organizations, Public Sector Undertakings, private and commercial organizations.
- All maintenance, renovation and repair works. However, works of retrofitting of essential lifeline buildings, to be used as shelters in an emergency are permitted under MPLADS.
- Grants and loans, contribution to any Central and State/UT Relief Funds.
- Naming of assets after any person.
- Acquisition of land or any compensation for land acquired.
- Assets for individual/family benefits.
- Works within the places of religious worship and on land belonging to or owned by religious faith/group
- Construction of Swagat Dwars.

- Execution of works in unauthorized colonies

Analysis of the MPLADS Expenditure: Jharkhand

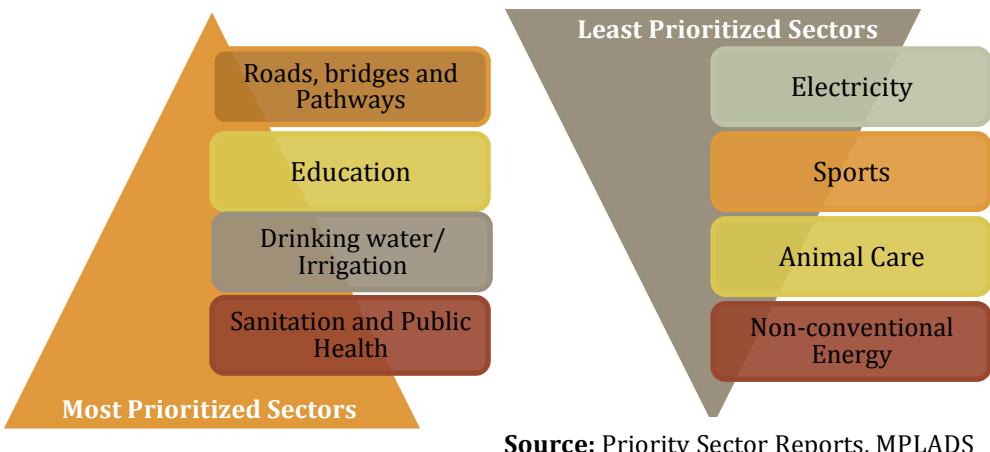
The graph below charts the priority sector wise distribution of total MPLADS expenditure for Jharkhand.

Priority Sectorwise Distribution (%) of MPLADS Expenditure - Jharkhand/India

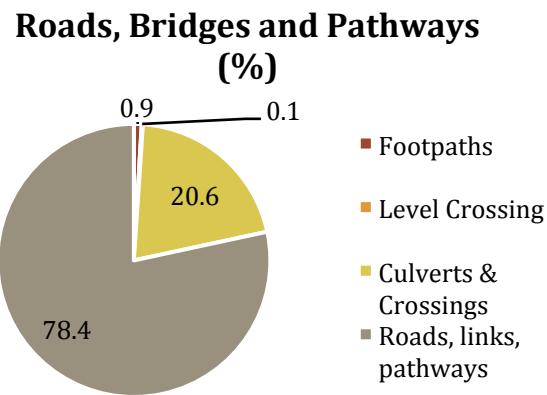


As displayed by the graph, roads and bridges, education, drinking water and sanitation, and irrigation are the preferred four sectors for MPLADS spending in Jharkhand, whereas electricity, sports, animal care and non-conventional energy sources have shown the least MPLADS expenditure.

The adjacent chart shows a comparison of the most prioritized and least prioritized sectors in Jharkhand for MPLADS expenditure. Additionally, **health and family welfare** is another key sector in Jharkhand with low MPLADS expenditure.



Moreover, **Roads, Bridges and Pathways** and **Irrigation** are the only two sectors where the expenditure is significantly **higher** than the national average. In all the other sectors, the spending of Jharkhand MPs is lower than the national average.

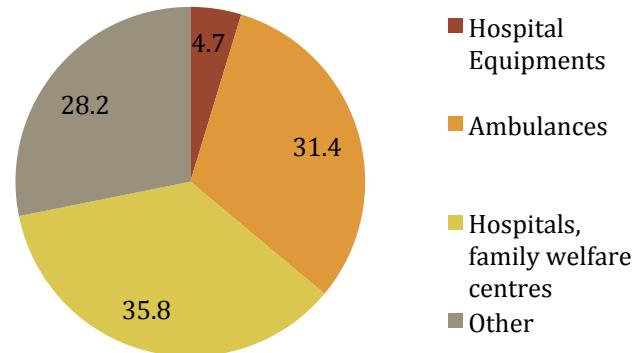


Within the Roads and Bridges sector, a greater proportion of MPLADS expenditure has been diverted towards constructing roads, links and pathways, followed by expenditure on constructing culverts and crossings. There has been comparatively minimal spending on level crossings, pedestrian ways and footpaths. Consequently, the construction of pedestrian ways, footpath culverts and crossings can be considered while recommending works under the MPLADS.

Source: Priority Sector Reports, MPLADS

The share of funds recommended for the Health and Family Welfare sector is also comparatively lower than other sectors in Jharkhand. Within this sector, several works can be recommended such as the provision of hospital equipment in Government hospitals and community health centers, acquisition of ambulances and construction of buildings for Government hospitals, family welfare centers and community health centers. The MPLADS expenditure in this sector has been mostly focused on acquisition of ambulances and construction of buildings. The acquisition of medical equipment, which is an important aspect of providing healthcare facilities can be another area where MPLADS expenditure may be undertaken in Jharkhand.

Health and Family Welfare (%)



Source: Priority Sector Reports, MPLADS

Recommendations

Participatory Planning

In order to better understand the local needs and foster community involvement, participatory planning can be used by the state. This would ensure that the work recommended by MPs is well received by the people and is effective in attaining the overall objective of the Scheme. This is in contrast to a top-down approach, where works of development recommended by MPs may not necessarily align with the needs of the community.

Participatory planning has been used extensively, in Kottayam, Kerala to ascertain the genuine needs of the community with the help of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).¹ The PRIs have assisted in planning the works and also ensured effective implementation and monitoring of the Scheme. The experience in Kottayam shows that participatory planning, with the aid of PRIs, can complement the MPLADS in order to bring about equitable development.

The '**One MP – One Idea**' competition can also be used to foster the generation of innovative ideas for local development. Although, the MPLADS guidelines mention the competition in the context of Lok Sabha constituencies, Rajya Sabha MPs can plan a similar set up with the aid of the Nodal District Authority. The competition would ensure active participation of the local population and generate interest in development projects. Moreover, it would incentivize and reward innovative ideas from the beneficiaries, thereby, fostering a bottom-up approach to governance.

Focus Shift towards the Least Prioritized Sectors

As revealed by the analysis of MPLADS funds in India and Jharkhand, most recommended works under the scheme fall within the Roads and Bridges and Education sector, highlighting a huge disparity between the priority sectors. This can be remedied by focusing on the hitherto ignored sectors, which have immense potential for development. In Jharkhand, the least prioritized sectors are **Electricity, Sports, Animal Care and Non-Conventional Energy Sources**. Within each of these sectors, works can be recommended to balance the development needs of the community. Within each of these categories, various developmental needs can be taken up such as:

- Installation of lighting on public streets
- Installation of community Gobar-gas plants
- Installation of non-conventional energy system/devices for community use
- Construction of buildings for veterinary aid centers, artificial insemination centers & breeding centers and shelters for animals
- Construction of public gyms, public sports facilities, and acquisition of sports equipment.

Works within the Most Prioritized Sectors

Within the most prioritized sectors of Roads & Bridges, Education, Drinking Water, Irrigation, Sanitation and Public Health, there are less prioritized aspects that can be emphasized by the MPs. For instance, emphasis can be laid on the following works within these sectors –

Roads and Bridges:

- Construction of pedestrian ways and footpaths
- Construction of additional toilets for passengers in the circulation area of Railway Station.
- Construction of Platforms at Railway Station
- Construction of Foot Over Bridge at Railway Station

¹ NABCONS, Summary of Major Findings of Monitoring Study of MPLAD Scheme under Phase III, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

- Provision of Drinking Water in Station premises.
- Provision of Escalator/Travellator at Stations.
- Provision of Solar Lighting at Station/Level Crossing Gate.
- Amenities for physically challenged persons at Stations (like ramps, separate toilets, etc.).

Sanitation and Public Health Sector

- Garbage collection and night soil disposal Systems.
- Earth movers including vehicles for local bodies.

Education

- Purchase of mobile library and computers
- Purchase of Visual Display Units for learning centers

Health and Family Welfare

Health and family welfare is another sector, where MPLADS contribution has been relatively less in Jharkhand, compared to the immense public importance of this sector. Consequently, MPs can recommend various works within this sector to bring about parity in local development. Within the health sector, considerably less expenditure has been incurred on procuring health equipment for government hospitals and health centers. Hence, MPs can focus on this aspect of health and family welfare while recommending works for MPLADS.

Conclusion

The utilization of the MPLADS funds by MPs in Jharkhand has been skewed in favour of the traditional Roads and Bridges sector. The Priority Sector Report of MPLADS reveals the minimal spending on crucial sectors such Health and Family Welfare, Electricity and Drinking Water. MPs can focus more on using the MPLADS funds imaginatively to recommend holistic works of development. The participation of people can be instrumental in fostering innovative ideas for development within the constituency or state. A shift in the focus from traditional areas of development to emerging sectors such as the creation of non-conventional energy sources and provision of sports facilities can provide more opportunities for innovative ideas of development.

