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MPLADS: The MP Local Area Development Scheme

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MPLADS: The MP Local Area Development Scheme

Every Member of Parliament gets a fund to spend on development in their area. The scheme is called MPLADS. It has loud supporters and loud critics. This lesson explains how it works, the rules of the fund, who does what, and the real debate about it. It ends with the 2026 transparency upgrade.

> **1993** MPLADS launched.
> **SC / ST** Fixed share of each MP's fund.
> **Non-lapsable** Unused money carries forward.
> **6 Mar 2026** eSAKSHI dashboard revamped.

MPLADS: Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme.

Durable asset: A lasting asset, like a road or school building.

Non-lapsable: Unused funds are not lost at year end.

eSAKSHI: The online portal that tracks MPLADS funds.

1 Chapter 1: What MPLADS Is

Must Know

The basic idea

- The Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) was launched in 1993.
- It gives every MP funds for local development projects.

- Each MP recommends works, such as roads, schools or drinking-water facilities, in their area.
- The funds go to district authorities.
- District authorities actually carry out the work.
- The MP suggests. The MP does not build.
- Exams test this: the MP recommends, district authorities implement.

The rules of the fund

- Funds must create durable assets, like infrastructure for health and education.
- They cannot be spent on one-time expenses.
- A specified share of each MP's fund must benefit Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe populations.
- Unused funds are non-lapsable. They carry forward to the next year.
- UPSC 2020 tested exactly these rules.

Remember: MP recommends. District authority implements. Funds: durable assets, SC/ST share, non-lapsable.

> **Quick check 1.** The MP personally implements the works recommended under MPLADS. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

> **Quick check 2.** Unused MPLADS funds are lost if an MP does not spend them within the year. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

2 Chapter 2: Who Can Recommend Where

Good to Know

Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, nominated

- Lok Sabha MPs recommend works only in their own constituency.
- Rajya Sabha MPs can recommend works anywhere in the State they represent.
- They represent the whole State, not one district.
- Nominated MPs, in either House, have the widest reach.
- They can pick any one State in the country, not necessarily one they are tied to.
- They then recommend works in one or more districts within it.

Remember: Lok Sabha: one constituency. Rajya Sabha: anywhere in the State. Nominated: any one State.

> **Quick check 3.** A nominated Rajya Sabha MP can recommend MPLADS works only in their own home State. *(True or False?)*
>
> See answer ↓

3 Chapter 3: The Debate

Good to Know

The case for

- Supporters say MPLADS lets MPs respond to small local needs that a distant department may overlook.
- MPs know their area best, so they can pick useful projects.
- If a small village needs a drinking-water tap, the MP can fund it quickly.

The case against

- Critics say the scheme blurs the line between legislative and executive work.
- MPs are meant to make laws, not run projects.
- Reviews have repeatedly flagged weak monitoring and uneven use of funds across constituencies.
- Every year, parliamentary reviews find uneven results.

A governance tension

- MPLADS sits in the middle of a bigger choice.
- On one side is local responsiveness, such as an MP funding a bridge.
- On the other is clear separation of roles, with the MP focused on lawmaking.
- Neither side is obviously wrong.
- This is a strong essay angle.
- Read more: Democracy's Distinctive Virtue and Panchayati Raj Institutions in India.

Remember: For: quick local response. Against: blurred roles and weak monitoring.

> **Think it through: Think it through: if the MP only recommends, why the criticism?**
>
> The criticism is about who decides what gets built, not who holds the tools. Choosing which road is paved is normally an executive job. An MP's constitutional job is to make laws and watch the executive.

> **Quick check 4.** Critics argue MPLADS blurs the separation between legislative and executive functions. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

4 Chapter 4: The Pandemic Lesson

Great to Know

A scheme paused

- MPLADS was briefly suspended during COVID-19.
- Its funds were redirected to pandemic response, including health equipment.
- This showed a benefit: discretionary funds can move fast in an emergency.
- It also showed a risk: that same flexibility lets money be pulled from its original purpose.
- Read more: State Legislatures and Special Governance and Parliamentary Motions.

Quick check 5. MPLADS was briefly suspended during COVID-19 and its funds redirected. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

5 Chapter 5: The eSAKSHI Dashboard, 2026

Great to Know

A transparency upgrade

- On 6 March 2026 the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) launched a revamped public dashboard.
- It is for the MPLADS-eSAKSHI portal, first introduced on 1 April 2023 to manage fund flow. (Source: The Policy Edge, citing PIB.)
- The dashboard tracks a work's whole life: the MP's recommendation, sanction, and final vendor payment.
- Any citizen can check what has actually been built in their constituency.

The new rule

- Implementing Agencies must now upload geo-tagged photographs at each construction stage.
- District Authorities and MPs can verify or correct them.
- This answers the critics' complaint about weak monitoring.

Quick check 6. Implementing Agencies must upload geo-tagged photographs at each construction stage. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

6 Previous Year Questions

Exam angle: real questions on this topic.

Asked before

PYQ 1 · UPSC CSP 2020, Q3

With reference to the funds under Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), which of the following statements are correct ?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 4 only

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Asked before

PYQ 2 · UPSC CDS (I) 2020, Q47

Which of the following statements is not correct regarding the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)?

(a) Members of the Parliament (MPs) sanction, execute and complete works under the scheme.
(b) Nominated Members of the Parliament can recommend works for implementation anywhere in the country.
(c) The scheme is fully funded by the Government of India.
(d) The annual entitlement per MP is ₹5 crore.

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Quick Q&A

- **MPLADS launched?** 1993.
- **Who implements?** District authorities.
- **Unused funds?** Non-lapsable.
- **Rajya Sabha reach?** Anywhere in the State.
- **Dashboard revamped?** 6 March 2026.

Practice MCQs

Answer Key

Quick-check answers

1. **False.** ↑ 1
2. **False.** ↑ 2
3. **False.** ↑ 3
4. **True.** ↑ 4
5. **True.** ↑ 5
6. **True.** ↑ 6

Previous year answers

1. **(d) 1, 2 and 4 only** Statement 3 is false — MPLADS funds are non-lapsable and unused funds CAN be carried forward to the next year. Statements 1, 2, and 4 are correct.
2. **(a) Members of the Parliament (MPs) sanction, execute and complete works under the scheme.** MPs only recommend works under MPLADS; the District Authority sanctions and executes them.

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