

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು  
PAPER CLIPPINGS

ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: parliament committee

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: The Hindu

ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE : 15/12/20

## Release our funds, MPs urge Centre

Govt. rules out MPLADS quota for now

SOBHANA K. NAIR  
NEW DELHI

At a meeting of the Standing Committee on MP Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) funds of the Rajya Sabha headed by Deputy Chairman Harivansh, members of all parties unanimously asked the government to release funds for the projects sanctioned in 2018 and 2019, which were under way before the funds were suspended due the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the meeting, the government, according to sources, unequivocally said that resuming the funds before March 2022 was out of the question as the ₹3,900 crore required have not been budgeted.

The sources said the MPs, however, pointed that many projects that were approved earlier and under way had also not received funds since the suspension. "We all agreed unanimously when the government brought in changes to suspend the MPLADS funds to aid the fight against the pandemic. However, that does not mean the projects which were approved long before should not be completed," a committee member said.

The government does not

**☉ We agreed when it was suspended during pandemic. That does not mean projects approved long back should not be completed**

STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBER

even have the statistics of the projects that have been left midway. According to sources, officials from the Ministry of Statistics that handles the MPLADS funds told the committee that it was collating data in this connection.

The committee has received representations from several MPs on the issue. The MPs get around ₹5 crore annually under the scheme. The money is released only after the Centre receives completion certificates from districts.

"The committee also reiterated an earlier recommendation that the funds should not lapse within 18 months as is the current norm. Instead, the MPs should be given 30 months after he/she proposes a project," another committee member said.

In their representations, the MPs had argued that the funds become more critical during the pandemic.