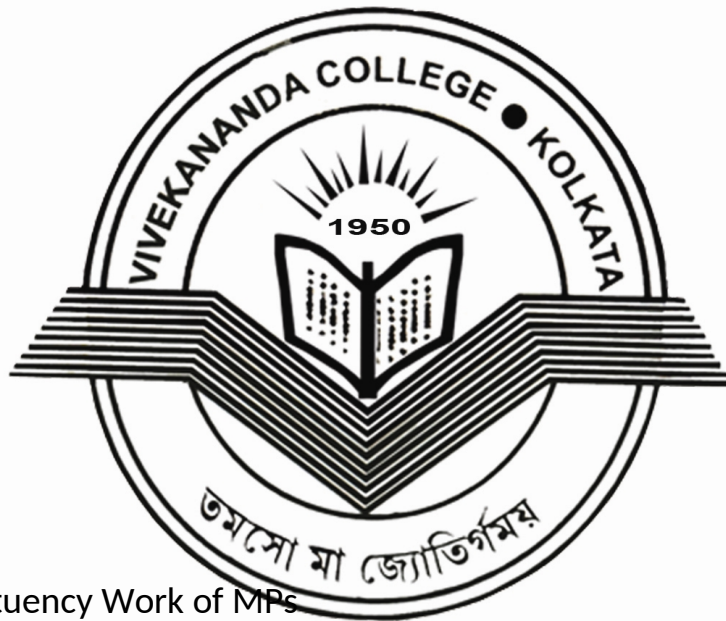


VIVEKANANDA COLLEGE
THAKURPUKUR
KOLKATA-700063

NAAC ACCREDITED 'A' GRADE



Topic: Constituency Work of MPs

Course Title: Legislative Practices and Procedures

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Name of the Teacher: Baisakhi Chatterjee

Name of the Department: Political Science

CONSTITUENCY WORK OF MPs IN INDIA

A Member of Parliament holds a very important position in a Parliamentary democracy like India. With 543 MPs in the Lok Sabha (Lower House), representing more than 1.3 billion people, a Lok Sabha MP on an average represents more than 2.2 million people. A Rajya Sabha (Upper House) MP is the voice of his state in the Parliament and, as such, has a very important role in our federal political system. The primary role of an MP is that of a legislator. Voting in favour or against a particular Bill, an MP decides the fate of the Bill. In order to become an Act, an ordinary Bill has to be passed by a simple majority of the Members of Parliament, while in the case of a Constitutional Amendment Bill, two-thirds majority of the Ps present and voting is mandatory. The MPs also play a deliberative role in the Parliament by questioning, scrutinising and criticising various government schemes and policies. They also play an important role by serving as the members of the various Standing Committees of the Parliament.

Apart from his role in the Parliament, an MP also plays an important role in his/her constituency/state. After all, he represents the people living in his electoral constituency. Within the constituency, an MP plays various important roles, mostly in developmental work.

- i. **MPLADS**- Under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), launched in 1993, every MP is allocated **Rs. 5 crore per year** for initiating developmental works in his constituency. The scheme is administered by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), which lays down guidelines on the works and activities permitted under MPLADS.

MPLADS Scheme: Features-

- a. Annual MPLADS Fund Entitlement is Rs. 5 crore
- b. Lok Sabha can recommend works within their constituencies and Rajya Sabha members can recommend work within their states. Nominated members of both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha can recommend works anywhere in the country.
- c. District Magistrate/Collector would be responsible for sanctioning projects under the scheme along with approval and disbursement of MPLADS funds.
- d. 15% of the annual entitlement under MPLAD must be used in areas inhabited by the SCs and 7.5% in areas inhabited by ST population. ST areas are notified by the Government of India. Areas with an SC population greater than the average for the district could be considered SC areas by District Magistrates/Collectors for the purpose of MPLADS works.
- e. If a constituency does not have ST inhabited areas, funds can be used in an SC area. District Magistrates/Collectors have been entrusted with the responsibility of enforcing the provisions of the guideline.

- **Permissible items under MPLADS :**

Social Welfare:

- Purchase of tricycles, motorized/ battery operated wheelchair, artificial limbs, etc for physically challenged individuals.
- All applications for such assistance shall be examined and approved by a committee under Chief Medical Officer of the district to ensure proper eligibility.

Health:

- Purchase of ambulances, hearse vans. District Magistrate/ Chief Medical Officer would be responsible for the ownership and management of the ambulances.
- Purchase of ambulances/ vehicles to transport sick or injured animals to wildlife sanctuaries and National Parks.

Education:

- Purchase of computers, computer software along with training for government and government aided institutions.
- Mobile library for educational institutions belonging to Centre, State, U.T. and Local government.
- Purchase of furniture upto Rs 50 lakhs for primary and secondary government and government aided schools.
- Purchase of book for schools, colleges and public libraries with a limit of Rs22lakhs per year.
- Purchase of vehicles including school buses, vans etc.

Infrastructure:

- Retrofitting of public building, government schools, government hospitals, shelter houses, heritage buildings.
- New borings in place of hand pumps in lieu of existing non functional hand pumps.
- Construction of railway stations to facilitate easy access to railways and boarding and de-boarding from a train.
- Construction of buildings of Bar Associations.
- Provision of solar light in public places.
- Provision of bio-digesters in public places.
- Installation of CCTV camera systems for security surveillance.
- Assistance to cooperative societies for community infrastructure and public utility building works.

Centrally sponsored schemes:

- Utilisation of MPLAD funds to augment central share and state share for the implementation of a centrally sponsored scheme, such as NREGS, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan etc.
 - This would cover all schemes providing assets for individual or family use.
 - The MP cannot add or change the beneficiary list under the scheme. The implementation would be as per the guidelines of the scheme.
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