

In July 2011 the NCM informed the Government that it did not want to pursue the grant of constitutional status to the Commission but wanted powers of inquiry and investigation as accorded to the National Human Rights Commission be given to it. The matter is under examination by the Government. As the powers sought will entail consultations and amendment of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992, no time frame can be fixed for completing the exercise.

Progress of MsDP

410. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the progress of Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) in all the identified districts of the country;
- (b) details of physical targets set and achieved during the last five years, year wise and district wise, with a particular reference to Andhra Pradesh; and
- (c) what plans Ministry has during the Twelfth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI NINONG ERING) : (a) Out of the total allocation of Rs. 3780 crore for Multi-sectoral Development Programme during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, approvals to the projects amounting to Rs. 3733.90 crore have been given and Rs.2935.93 crore has been released till 31.3.2012 to 90 identified Minority Concentration Districts (MCDs) in the country. The programme has been continued in the current year (2012-13). District Plans worth Rs. 680.94 crore have been approved and Rs.345.04 crore has been released till date.

(b) The district-wise details of physical targets and achievement during the last five years of the programme are enclosed at Annexure [See Appendix 227 Annexure No. 4]. No district of Andhra Pradesh was eligible as MCD under Multi-sectoral Development Programme during Eleventh Five Year Plan.

(c) The Ministry will continue to implement the programme with more focus on minority concentration areas with a focus on blocks rather than districts and to expand the programme to cover other deserving areas like minority concentration towns/cities and cluster of minority concentration villages for implementation during Twelfth Five Year Plan depending on the availability of requisite fund. The programme would aim at improving the socio-economic conditions of minorities and

providing basic amenities to them for improving the quality of life of the people and reducing imbalances in the identified minority concentration areas during the Twelfth Five Year Plan period. The projects related to the provision of better infrastructure for education, health, sanitation, pucca housing, drinking water, besides beneficiary oriented schemes for creating income generating opportunities, connecting roads, ICDS centres, skill development and marketing facilities, would be considered.

Timely disbursal of scholarships to minority students

411. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any mechanism exists to ensure the timely disbursal of scholarships to students under the Ministry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any instance of delay in disbursing the scholarship to students had been reported from Uttar Pradesh; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI NINONG ERING): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Minority Affairs implements three Scholarship Schemes *viz.* Pre-matric, Post-matric and Merit-cum-Means Based through the State Governments/UT Administrations and one Fellowship Scheme *viz.* Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) Scheme through University Grants Commission (UGC). These Scholarships/Fellowship are disbursed through States/UTs and University Grants Commission respectively. As per existing Scheme guidelines the States/Union Territories implementing the Scholarship schemes are required to monitor the financial and physical performance of the scheme at State/Union Territory level for which an I.T. enabled mechanism has been mandated to be in place. The States/Union Territories are also required to furnish quarterly financial and physical progress reports to the Ministry and maintain year-wise details of the students receiving scholarship, indicating school/institute, location of school/institute, government or private, class, gender, new or renewal, permanent address and parents' income, besides placing relevant physical and financial details on their official website.

As per the guidelines of MANF Scheme, UGC is required to send quarterly physical and financial progress report to Ministry of Minority Affairs, provide a list of minority students who have been awarded the Fellowship, University, minority community and State/UT-wise, for Ministry's information and follow-up actions, if any, apart from displaying the same on its website.