

Government of India
Ministry of Minority Affairs

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) in respect of Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) for Minority Concentration Districts (MCDs)

Q.1. Which are the minority communities in the country notified by the Central Government and what is their share of the country's population?

Ans. Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists and Zoroastrians (Parsis) have been notified as minority communities under Section 2 (c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992. As per Census 2001, the percentage of minorities in the country is about 18.4% of the total population of the country, of which Muslims are 13.4%; Christians 2.3%; Sikhs 1.9%, Buddhists 0.8% and Parsis 0.007%.

Q.2. What was the methodology used for identifying Minority Concentration Districts?

Ans. Minority Concentration Districts (MCD) have been identified on the basis of both population data and backwardness parameters of Census 2001 of these districts.

Q.3. What is the population criteria used for identifying Minority Concentration Districts?

Ans. 'Substantial minority population' in the context of the Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme has been used for identification of districts which are relatively backward in which at least 25% of the total population belongs to minority communities has been used for identification of MCD in 29 States/UTs. Further, districts having a large absolute minority population of more than 5 lakhs but with minority population between 20% to 25% has also been used for identification of such MCD in 29 States/UTs. Where a minority community is in majority In the six

States/UTs, 15% of minority population other than that of the minority community in majority in that State/UT, has been used.

Q.4. What is the backwardness parameters used for identifying Minority Concentration Districts?

The backwardness parameters are:-

(a) religion-specific socio-economic indicators at the district level –

- (i) literacy rate;
- (ii) female literacy rate;
- (iii) work participation rate; and
- (iv) female work participation rate; and

(b) basic amenities indicators at the district level –

- (i) percentage of households with pucca walls;
- (ii) percentage of households with safe drinking water;
- (iii) percentage of households with electricity; and
- (iv) percentage of households with W/C latrines.

Q.5. How many Minority Concentration Districts were identified?

Ans. 90 Minority Concentration Districts have been identified on the basis of both population data and backwardness parameters of Census 2001.

Q.6. How many such districts were identified before this exercise?

Ans. In 1987, a list of 41 minority concentration districts was prepared, based on the data of Census 1971. A single criterion of minority population of 20 percent or more in a district was applied for identification of 41 districts.

Q.7. Have the 90 MCD been classified according to their backwardness?

Ans. Minority Concentration Districts having values below the national average for both sets of parameters were considered relatively more backward have been classified as category 'A' (53 districts). Districts, which have values below the national average for either of the two sets of backwardness parameters, have been classified in category 'B' (37 districts).

Q.8. Give the names of the 90 districts, State and their classification?

Ans. The details of the 90 districts are in the website of this Ministry.

Q.9. What is MsDP?

Ans. MsDP stands for Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP). This is a special area development scheme designed to address the 'development deficits' identified by a baseline survey in these districts.

Q.10. What are the objectives of MsDP?

Ans. The programme aims at improving the socio-economic parameters of basic amenities for improving the quality of life of the people and reducing imbalances in the MCDs during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period. Identified 'development deficits' would be made up through a district specific plan for provision of better infrastructure for school and secondary education, sanitation, pucca housing, drinking water and electricity supply, besides beneficiary oriented schemes for creating income generating activities. Absolutely critical infrastructure linkages like connecting roads, basic health infrastructure, ICDS centres, skill development and marketing facilities required for improving living conditions and income generating activities and catalyzing the growth process would also be eligible for inclusion in the plan. The multi-sectoral district development plan of a district have to be prepared in such a manner that these districts are saturated

with schemes included in the Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities within the Eleventh Plan period.

Q.11. What is the thrust of MsDP?

Ans. The thrust of the MsDP, which will be prepared on the basis of the 'development deficits' brought out by a baseline survey, would be to improve the socio-economic parameters of minorities and the basic amenities parameters of the district as a whole so as to bring them at par with the national average, if not higher. Critical infrastructure linkages that are required for optimizing service, economic opportunities and can act as a catalyst would also be provided under this programme.

Q.12. Why is such an intervention considered necessary?

Ans. 90 minority concentration districts have already been identified by government which are relatively backward and falling behind the national average in terms of socio-economic and basic amenities indicators. These districts have a substantial minority population and are backward, with unacceptably low levels of socio-economic or basic amenities indicators, requiring focused attention and specific programme intervention.

Q.13. What are the types of schemes approved under MsDP?

Ans. The type of Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) approved by the Ministry and the 'development deficits' that they would address are given below:-

S. No	Approved projects	Name of Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)	Ministries/ Departments
	For addressing housing deficit		
1	Construction of Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) houses	Indira Awas Yojana housing *	M/o Rural Development
	For addressing drinking water deficit		
1	Installation of hand pumps	Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme*	D/o Drinking Water Supply

2	Construction of drinking water supply scheme	(ARWSP) ARWSP	D/o Drinking Water Supply
3	Construction of ring well for drinking water	ARWSP	D/o Drinking Water Supply
For addressing deficits in female and total literacy including toilets			
1	Construction of additional classrooms in Govt. higher secondary schools	Rashtriya Madhyamik Siksha Abhiyan (RMSA)	D/o Education & Literacy
2	Construction of additional classrooms (ACRs) in Govt. high schools	RMSA	D/o Education & Literacy
3	Construction of additional classrooms in lower primary and middle schools	Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) *	D/o Education & Literacy
4	Construction of schools buildings in primary and middle schools	SSA	D/o Education & Literacy
5	Lab. equipments in Govt. high schools	RMSA	D/o Education & Literacy
6	Construction of computer rooms in Govt. secondary schools	RMSA	D/o Education & Literacy
7	Construction of ACR in Kasturba Gandhi Vidyalaya	SSA *	D/o Education & Literacy
8	ACRs/Computers in Secondary/Sr. Secondary in recognized Government Madrassa	SSA */RMSA	D/o Education & Literacy
9	Construction of a small room with incinerator for sanitary napkins disposals in high schools	RMSA	D/o Education & Literacy
10	Construction of toilet blocks in various categories of schools	SSA* /RMSA/Total Sanitation Campaign	D/o School Education & Literacy, D/o Drinking Water Supply
For addressing deficit in electricity			
1	Solar lantern for girls studying in high schools for BPL	Scheme of solar lantern	M/o New and Renewable Energy

	families.		
2	Solar street lighting	Scheme of solar street lights	M/o New and Renewable Energy
	For addressing low level of institutional delivery and vaccination		
1	Construction of additional primary health centres (APHCs) building	National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)	M/o Health and Family Welfare
2	Construction of primary health sub centres (PHSCs) building	NRHM	M/o Health and Family Welfare
3	Construction anganwadi centres (AWC)	Integrated Child Development Scheme *	M/o Women and Child Development

S. No	In-principle approved projects For addressing deficit in female and total work participation.	Name of Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)	Ministries/ Departments
1	Construction of Industrial Training Institutes (ITI) buildings	Establishment of new Industrial Training Institutes (ITI)	M/o Labour & Employment
2	Upgradation and strengthening of Govt. ITI, introduction of new trades, equipments etc.	Scheme for upgradation of existing ITI into centre of excellence *	M/o Labour & Employment
3	Construction of hostel for ITI, equipment for various trade for ITI	-do-	M/o Labour & Employment
4	Construction of hostel for polytechnic and upgradation of polytechnic	Setting up of Polytechnics under coordinated action for skill development	D/o School Education & Literacy
5	Integrated watershed development programme.	Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Area	M/o Agriculture and Cooperation
6	Capacity building of farmers, traders, entrepreneurs on scientific coconut cultivation & processing technology.		M/o Agriculture and Cooperation
7	Construction of dyeing unit	Cluster development for handloom	M/o Textile
8	SGSY units on the pattern and guideline	Swarnjayanti Grameen Swarozgar Yojna * (SGSY)	M/o Rural Development
9	Vocational training on computer and I.T.		M/o Labour & Employment

For addressing deficits in female and total literacy

1	Construction of hostel for girls in high/secondary schools	Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya * (KGBV)	D/o School Education & Literacy
2	Construction of hostel for boys in high/secondary schools	Novadaya Vidyalaya Samiti	D/o School Education & Literacy
3	Providing modern teaching aid	SSA *	D/o School Education & Literacy
4	Computer with Accessories	SSA *	D/o School Education & Literacy
5	Construction of Govt. inter-college building .	RMSA	D/o School Education & Literacy

Q.14. Why is it that only CSS are taken up?

Ans. There were many existing Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) already addressing national concerns with time-tested guidelines and implementation mechanism. Wherever existing CSS addresses the identified development deficits, it is easier to implement such schemes as they already have an implementing mechanism. However, nothing in the scheme prevents the State/UT from taking up any proposals which are not catered by existing schemes/programmes of the Central and State Governments.

Q.15. How is it ensured that maximum benefits go to the minorities?

Ans. The guidelines for implementation of MsDP provides that priority should be given for location of social and economic infrastructure will be given to villages/blocks/localities having a substantial population of minority communities.

Q.16. Are changes envisaged for CSS implemented under MsDP?

Ans. There would be no change in guidelines of any existing scheme under implementation in such districts for which this programme will provide additional funds. As far as possible, the focus of the programme will be on providing appropriate social and economic infrastructure rather than targeting individual beneficiaries. In case schemes for individual benefits are taken up under the programme, there will be no divergence from existing norms for selection of beneficiaries from the list of BPL families in the district, so

that benefits from the additional funds flow to all BPL families and not selectively to families of minority community.
