

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINORITY AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:546  
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2010  
PACKAGE FOR MINORITY AREAS  
Ponnam Shri Prabhakar

**Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) Whether the Government has announced any package for the minority areas in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof in the XI Five Year Plan;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the time by which such package is likely to be announced after consulting the experts and States?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR MINORITY AFFAIRS (SALMAN KHURSHID)

(a) and (b): A special area development programme, called Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP), was launched in 2008-09 as a Central Sponsored Scheme (CSS) in 90 identified Minority Concentration Districts (MCD) for implementation during the XI Five Year Plan. These MCDs are relatively backward and lagging behind the national average in terms of specific socio- economic and basic amenities parameters. MsDP has been designed to address the development deficits in these districts. The current financial year is the second year of implementation of this programme. So far Rs. 1019.55 crore have been released to States/Union Territories concerned for its implementation.

(c) and (d): Do not arise.