

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINORITY AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5829  
ANSWERED ON:08.09.2011  
MEETING OF INTELLECTUALS FOR MINORITY SCHEMES  
Singh Shri Ganesh

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

- (a) whether a meeting of intellectuals of only one community has been convened by the Government for a discussion on the schemes meant for betterment of minorities in the country;
- (b) if so, whether it is also a fact that only one community has been considered as a basis for selection of 90 predominantly minority districts; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

(a): The Ministry of Minority Affairs, with the intention to holding consultations with all five minority communities notified under Section 2 (c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992, had held the first consultation meeting with intellectuals from the Muslim community for the formulation of the 12th Five Year Plan on 7.7.2011.

(b) and (c): 90 Minority Concentration Districts (MCDs) were identified, inter alia, on the basis of percentage of population of all the five minority communities notified under Section 2 (c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992. The basis of identification was the following:

(1) First the following population criteria were applied to short list districts-

(i) Districts with a substantial minority population of at least 25% of the total population were identified in 29 States/UTs.

(ii) Districts having a large absolute minority population exceeding 5 lakhs and the percentage of minority population exceeding 20% but less than 25% were identified in 29 States/UTs.

(iii) Districts in the six States/UTs, where a minority community is in majority, districts having 15% of minority population, other than that of the minority community in majority in that State/UT.

(2) The short listed districts were then subjected to the following backwardness parameters -

(i) Religion-specific socio-economic indicators at the district level in literacy rate; female literacy rate; work participation rate; and female work participation rate; and

(ii) Basic amenities indicators at the district level in percentage of households with pucca walls; percentage of households with safe drinking water; percentage of households with electricity; and percentage of households with water closet latrines.

(3) Districts falling below the national average in both or in either one of the above sets of backwardness parameters were identified as minority concentration districts. There are 90 such districts, of which Muslims are predominant in 66 MCDs, Christians in 13 MCDs, Buddhists in 10 MCDs and Sikhs in one MCD.