

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4593
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2012
CLASSIFICATION OF MINORITY CONCENTRATION DISTRICTS
Singh Shri Radhey Mohan

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to change the eligible criteria for classification of minority concentrated districts by reducing the criteria for such grouping from the existing 25 percent to 15 per cent;
- (b) if so, the details worked out so far; and
- (c) the views of the minorities and experts in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): During the discussion for formulation of 12th Five Year Plan, the Working Group on 'Empowerment of Minorities' had received two sets of suggestion either to reduce the criterion of 25% population to 15% for the Minority Concentration Districts (MCDs), or reduce the unit of planning to block level with same population criterion of 25% for better targeting. However, this will be contingent on outcome of the 2011 Census in order to know its impact in terms of coverage of targeted minority population. Till date, the criterion of 25% minority population for MCDs is being followed.