

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINORITY AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1126  
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2012  
PM'S NEW 15-POINT PROGRAMME FOR MINORITIES  
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**Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the salient features of the Prime Minister's New 15-Point Programme for minorities;
- (b) whether any deficiencies and shortcomings were noticed by the Union Government in the previous Programme;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the manner in which the new Programme is likely to improve the lives of minorities in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS(SHRI NINONG ERING)

(a): 15 Point Programme is an overarching programme covering many schemes of other Ministries with an aim to ensure that the benefits of various government schemes for the under privileged reach the minority communities. In order to ensure that the benefits of these schemes flow equitably to the minorities, the new programme envisages location of a certain proportion of development projects in minority concentration areas. It also provides that, wherever possible, 15% of targets and outlays under various schemes should be earmarked for the minorities. The schemes of Ministry of Minority Affairs covered under this Programme are meant exclusively for minorities.

(b)&(c): The previous programme was recast in 2006 to make it more effective in realizing its objective. The Programme was recast to focus action sharply on issues intimately linked with the social, educational and economic uplift of minorities and provide for earmarking of outlays in certain schemes so that the progress is monitorable.

(d): The new programme is likely to improve the life of minorities in the country by (i) enhancing opportunities for education;(ii) ensuring an equitable share for minorities in economic activities and employment (iii) improving the conditions of living of minorities by ensuring an appropriate share for them in infrastructure development schemes; and (iv) prevention and control of communal disharmony and violence. For effective implementation, the programme is monitored at the Central level, on quarterly basis by Ministry of Minority Affairs and on half yearly basis by Committee of Secretaries (COS) and thereafter reported to the Union Cabinet. The State and District Level Committees constituted for this Programme monitor the progress at the State and District level respectively.