

>

Title : Need to include the Anglo-Indian community in the proposed Central Scheme for development of minority concentration districts in the Country.

MS. INGRID MCLEOD (NOMINATED): I learn that the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs is in the process of formulating a multisectoral Central scheme that will target the 90 Minority Concentration Districts (MCD) in the country and is being envisaged as a 100 percent centrally funded scheme. The scheme, once in place, is expected to give a push to the prime minister's new 15 point programme for the welfare of minorities. The ambitious programme is aimed at improving the condition of minorities by locating certain proportion of development projects in minority concentration area. Among the areas that will receive particular attention in the minority districts are education, housing, water supply, electricity and nutrition. The aim of the scheme is also to create income-generating activities for the minority communities. This is a welcome step.

In this context, I would like the government to spell the criteria proposed to be adopted for identifying minorities whether they would be religious minorities, or linguistic minorities or any other special criteria will be evolved. From the initial reports, it appears that the prime consideration would be religious criterion. May I know from the Hon'ble Minister if the Anglo-Indian community is also considered to receive the benefits spelled out in the multisectoral central scheme.